

# express



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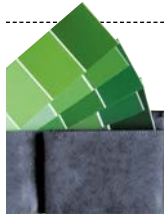
## Weekend



Barack Obama signs his first law as president.

**'Shameful':** Obama slams huge Wall Street bonuses | **3**

**Wars' Toll:** Suicide rate of soldiers hits 28-year high | **4**

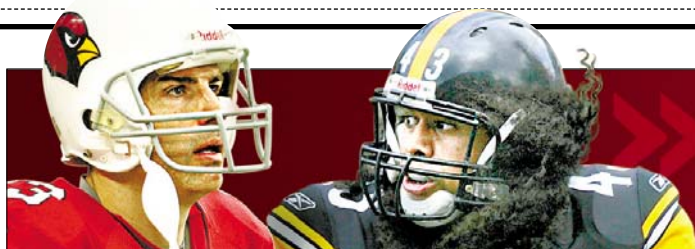


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### ENTERTAINMENT

**'New' is Old:**  
*Harry Connick Jr.*  
can't overcome the  
stultifying script  
of 'New In Town.'  
Also, a tribute  
party on the 50th  
anniversary of the  
day the music died.

**>> 12-18**



## THE CURTAIN CALLS

CAN THE CARDS BRING DOWN THE STEELERS? | **9-11**



## Storm Recovery Could Take Weeks

**ICED OVER:** A utility worker knocks ice off a downed power line on Thursday in Velvet Ridge, Ark. After a winter storm knocked out power for more than 1.3 million people this week, officials warned it could be days—and up to mid-February, in some cases—before service is fully restored. Meanwhile, residents waited in long lines for supplies. **♣ Crippled:** Dire situation in Kentucky | **Page 4**

## Ill. Ousts Disgraced Governor

Blagojevich barred from office in unanimous vote

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. | Gov. Rod Blagojevich was unanimously convicted at his impeachment trial and thrown out of office Thursday, ending a nearly two-month crisis that erupted with his arrest on charges he tried to sell Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat. Blagojevich becomes the first governor in more than 20 years to be removed by impeachment.



Blagojevich

After a four-day trial, the Illinois Senate voted 59-0 to convict him of abuse of power, automatically removing the second-term Democrat. Democratic Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn immediately became governor.

In a second 59-0 vote, the Senate further barred Blagojevich from ever holding public office in Illinois again. "We have this thing called impeachment, and it's bleeping golden," Democratic state Sen. James Meeks said, mocking Blagojevich's expletive-laden words captured on an FBI wiretap.

Federal prosecutors are expected to bring a corruption indictment against Blagojevich by April, after which a trial date will be set. (AP)



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FRIDAY  
**42/22**



SATURDAY  
**38/29**



SUNDAY  
**51/36**

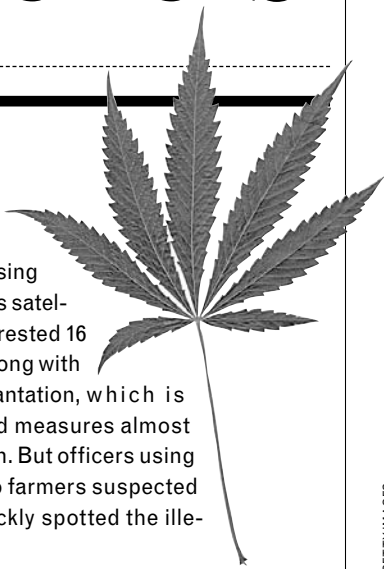
**TODAY:** Partly sunny with wind; a mainly clear and chilly evening | **30**

# eyeOpeners

## DRUGS

### Google = Crime Fighter

Swiss police said Thursday they stumbled across a large marijuana plantation while using Google Earth, the search engine company's satellite mapping software. Police said they arrested 16 people and seized 1.2 tons of marijuana, along with cash and valuables worth \$780,000. The plantation, which is located inside the canton of Thurgau and measures almost two acres, was hidden inside a field of corn. But officers using Google Earth to locate the address of two farmers suspected of involvement in the drug operation quickly spotted the illegal crop. (AP)



## FOOD

### Every Night's Special Is Tuscan Chicken

If you are craving a kebab, tandoori chicken or Peking duck, you may go hungry in the small Italian city of Lucca, in Tuscany, which has just barred new ethnic restaurants from opening in its

historic medieval center. New rules passed last week by Lucca's conservative administration aim to protect local specialties from the rising popularity of "different" cuisines. The measure also bans fast-food restaurants. It remained unclear how "different" a restaurant's menu would have to be to fall under the culinary ban. (AP)

OLU SCARF/BETTY IMAGES



## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Polar Position

These are not real polar bears. Repeat: These are not real polar bears. Earlier this week, this sculpture was launched on the River Thames in London to increase awareness of climate change. The bears floated past Parliament as a warning to the members who happened to be looking out the window as the sculpture floated by that if they don't pay attention to global warming, this could be their reality. Bears everywhere! OK, maybe not everywhere.

(EXPRESS)

## CRIME

### How Not to Deal

Everett, Wash., police said a 24-year-old man picked the wrong place to try to deal drugs — a stall in the police

station restroom. Police Sgt. Robert Goetz said the man was overheard Wednesday using a cell phone to try to sell Oxycodone, a prescription painkiller, and other drugs. Goetz said that as the man was leaving, he saw a gun-

wearing plainclothes police sergeant who had overheard the call. The man asked whether he was a probation officer. Goetz said the man admitted to trying to deal drugs and turned over his stash. (AP)

## Are You Anxious?

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## Men Wanted for Research Study

A Market research company in Bethesda is seeking men ages 35-64 to participate in a study on issues related to male sexual health. The research is completely confidential, and we are looking for men's opinions on different ideas related to the topic. There will be no attempt to sell participants anything, and no clinical trials are involved. If you qualify for the study, you will participate in a private 1-hr interview at our office on February 6th, and will be paid for your time. Please call Cecil at 301-215-7248 between 10:00A-4:00P, M-F

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**SHAKY GROUND:** Mount Redoubt, a volcano 100 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska, is rumbling and simmering, prompting geologists to warn that an eruption may be imminent. Volcanoes in Alaska typically erupt explosively, shooting ash almost eight miles high.

# Nation

## Napolitano Talks New Crackdown

Homeland Security chief wants 'criminal aliens' out of the U.S.

WASHINGTON | If you're a criminal and you're not entitled to be in the United States, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano wants you out of the country.

Napolitano wants what she calls "criminal aliens" off American streets, and she is looking at existing immigration enforcement programs to see if taxpayers are getting the most bang for their buck.



Napolitano

"That sounds very simple, but it's historically not been done," Napolitano said, speaking to reporters and senior Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials Thursday.

About 113,000 criminals who were in the U.S. illegally were deported last year, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. The agency estimates there are now as many as 450,000 criminals in detention centers who are in the country illegally.

Napolitano, whose job includes overseeing immigration laws, says she also will go after criminal fugitives who are in the country illegally. (AP)

## Obama: Wall St. Bonuses 'Shameful'

N.Y. comptroller says financial execs were awarded \$18.4B in '08

WASHINGTON | President Obama issued a withering critique Thursday of Wall Street corporate behavior, calling it "the height of irresponsibility" for employees to be paid more than \$18 billion in bonuses last year while their crumbling financial sector received a bailout from taxpayers.

"It is shameful," Obama said from the Oval Office. "And part of what we're going to need is for the folks on Wall Street who are asking for help to show some restraint, and show some discipline, and show some sense of responsibility."

The president's comments, made with new Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner at his side, came in swift response to a report that employees of the New York financial world garnered an esti-



CHARLES DHARA/PA

President Obama says he and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, left, will speak directly to leaders on Wall Street about limiting bonuses to employees.

mated \$18.4 billion in bonuses last year. The figure from the New York comptroller drew a flurry of news coverage.

The president said the public dislikes the idea of helping the finan-

cial sector dig out of a hole, only to see it get bigger because of lavish spending. The comptroller's report found that Wall Street bonuses were down 44 percent, but still at about the same level as they were during

### OBAMA'S FIRST LAW

→ Declaring that ending pay disparity is not just a women's issue, President Obama signed legislation Thursday that gives workers more time to take their pay discrimination cases to court.

→ Lilly Ledbetter, the Alabama woman whose story was the impetus behind the new law, stood alongside Obama as he signed the first bill of his presidency.

the boom time of 2004.

Obama said he and Geithner will speak directly to Wall Street leaders about the bonuses, which threaten to undermine public support for more government intervention as the economy keeps reeling.

"There will be time for them to make profits, and there will be time for them to get bonuses," Obama said. "Now is not that time." (AP)

### HEARSAY | POLITICS

"It's clear our message isn't getting out. ... Too often we've let others define us. And the image they've painted isn't very pretty."

—SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL, R-KY., WARNING THE GOP RISKS REMAINING OUT OF POWER UNLESS IT BETTER EXPLAINS ITS PRINCIPLES.

## Judge Rejects Delay in Gitmo Trial

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | A military judge at Guantanamo on Thursday rejected a White House request to suspend a hearing for the alleged mastermind of the USS Cole bombing, creating an unexpected challenge for the administration as it reviews how America puts suspected terrorists on trial.

The judge, Army Col. James

Pohl, said his decision was difficult but necessary to protect "the public interest in a speedy trial." The ruling came in the case against Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri. The bombing of the Navy destroyer in 2000 in the harbor of Aden, Yemen, killed 17 U.S. sailors.

It seemed to take the Pentagon and White House by surprise.

"We just learned of the ruling ... and we are consulting with the Pentagon and the Department of Justice to explore our options in the case," said White Press secretary Robert Gibbs, adding that he doubted the decision would hamper the administration's ability to decide how to move forward from Guantanamo. (AP)



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## Nation



**DEDICATION:** Neither snow nor rain nor fire? A Reading, Pa., postal worker recently called 911 after his delivery truck caught fire, and then rescued all the mail just before it went up in flames.

# Ice Cuts Power to 1.3 Million

Residents in Ark., Ky. could be living without electricity for weeks

CADIZ, KY. | Storm-battered residents of several states hunkered down in frigid homes and shelters Thursday, expecting to spend at least a week without power and waiting in long lines to buy generators, firewood, groceries and bottled water.

Utility companies in Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, Arkansas and West Virginia warned that the estimated 1.3 million people left in the dark by an ice storm wouldn't have power back before Saturday at the earliest or, at worst, as late as mid-February.

Already, the situation was becoming dire for some communities in Kentucky, where the power outages crippled pumping stations and cut off access to water. Tracie and Jeff Augustinovich drove 15 miles from their home in the western Kentucky town of Rock Castle to buy groceries. Their home had very little running water, and though they stocked up before the



APRIL L. BROWN/AP

A Southwestern Electric Power worker saws limbs near power lines Thursday in Fayetteville, Ark. Ice storms have left an estimated 1.3 million people without power.

storm, they weren't sure their supplies will last.

"We're buying up anything that we can eat cold," Tracie Augustinovich said.

Utility crews found themselves up against roads blocked by ice-caked power lines, downed trees and other debris. Help from across the country was arriving in con-

voys to assist the states with the worst outages. But with so many homes and businesses in the dark — there were more than 600,000 across Kentucky alone — the effort is still expected to take days, if not weeks.

Since the storm began Monday, the weather has been blamed for at least 25 deaths. (AP)

## Judge: Identities Of Prop 8 Donors Will Be Released

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. | A federal judge has denied a request to keep secret the names of donors to California's anti-gay marriage initiative. U.S. District Judge Morrison England Jr. ruled Thursday that the state's campaign disclosure laws are intended to protect the public and are important during expensive initiative campaigns.

Supporters of Proposition 8 had sought a preliminary injunction to hide the identities of those who contributed to their campaign. The initiative was approved by voters and overturned a state Supreme Court ruling that allowed gay marriage.

Reports that identify those who donated within two weeks of the election or afterward are scheduled to be released Monday. (AP)

## Soldier Suicide Rate Reaches 28-Year High

128 Army troops killed themselves last year, up from 115 deaths in '07

WASHINGTON | Suicides among U.S. soldiers rose last year to the highest level in decades, the Army announced Thursday.

At least 128 soldiers killed themselves in 2008. But the final count is likely to be considerably higher because 15 more suspicious deaths are still being investigated and could also turn out to be self-inflicted, the Army said.

The new suicide figure compares with 115 in 2007 and 102 in 2006, and is the highest since record-keeping began in 1980. Officials calculate the deaths at a rate of roughly

20.2 per 100,000 soldiers — which is higher than the adjusted civilian rate for the first time since the Vietnam War, officials said at a Pentagon news conference.

**15**  
The number of additional suspicious deaths the Army is investigating that may turn out to be suicides.

"We need to move quickly to do everything we can to reverse this disturbing ... number," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli said.

Military officials have said that troops are under tremendous and unprecedented stress because of repeated and long tours of duty due to the simultaneous war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

PAULINE JELINEK (AP)



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# World



**FAMOUS FOOTWEAR:** In a tribute to the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush last year, a sculptor unveiled a sofa-sized copper-coated shoe in Tikrit, Iraq, on Thursday. The sculpture includes an ode to the shoe hurler.

## Turkish PM Chides Israel Over Gaza

Erdogan leaves stage after debate with Peres at Swiss world forum

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND | Turkey's prime minister stalked off the stage at the World Economic Forum red-faced Thursday after reproaching Israel's president over the Gaza offensive by saying, "You kill people."

The packed audience, which included President Obama's close adviser Valerie Jarrett, appeared stunned as Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israeli President Shimon Peres raised their



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan points at Israeli President Shimon Peres participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Thursday.

voices and traded accusations.

Peres was passionate in his defense of Israel's 23-day offensive

against Hamas militants, launched in reaction to eight years of rocket fire aimed at Israeli territory. As he

spoke, Peres often turned toward Erdogan, who in his remarks had criticized the Israeli blockade of Gaza, saying it was an "open-air prison, isolated from the rest of the world," and referred to the Palestinian death toll of about 1,300. Thirteen Israelis also died.

"Why did they fire rockets? There was no siege against Gaza," Peres said, his voice rising in emotion. "Why did they fight us? What did they want?"

The heated debate was significant because of the key role Turkey has played as a moderator between Israel and Syria. JOHN DANISZEWSKI AND MATT MOORE (AP)

## 3 Killed Ahead of Iraqi Vote

Gunmen fatally shoot political candidates as security push begins

BAGHDAD | Gunmen apparently targeting political candidates staged attacks around Iraq on Thursday, leaving at least three people dead as Iraqi forces began imposing a full-scale security clampdown in advance of voting for provincial council seats.

The level of violence around Iraq is significantly lower than in past years, but Saturday's election is seen as a test of Iraqi self-reliance as the U.S. military turns over more authority to local forces.

In Baghdad, Sunni candidate Omer Farooq al-Ani, was killed in a drive-by shooting as he stepped from his home in the western Amiriya neighborhood, said a police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media.

Northeast of Baghdad, Sunni candidate Abbas Farhan was killed in a shooting ambush as he left a rally in Diyala Province, while in Mosul, gunmen killed Sunni candidate Hazim Salim. BRIAN MURPHY (AP)

PARIS | MORE THAN 1 MILLION STAGE STRIKE



**PUBLIC PROTEST:** People demonstrate in Paris on Thursday during France's largest general strike in three years. More than 1 million protesters participated in the strike, demanding that President Nicolas Sarkozy better protect jobs and consumers during the global economic crisis, and hobbling transportation, school, hospital and mail services.

## Afghanistan Delays Presidential Vote

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | Afghanistan will postpone its presidential election until Aug. 20, four months later than the constitution specifies, to give incoming U.S. forces more time to stabilize the country's most violent areas, the national election commission said Thursday.

Opposition lawmakers decried

the delay and said they won't recognize Hamid Karzai as president after May 22 — his last day in office, according to the constitution. Parliament is set to debate the issue Saturday in a potentially contentious session that could signal whether a constitutional crisis looms.

"If Karzai is in office after May 22,

that will be illegal," said Sayyid Agha Hussain Fazel Sancharaki, spokesman for the National Front, a group of opposition lawmakers.

The constitution says the election should be held 30 to 60 days before May 22. But Azizullah Lodin, head of the Independent Election Commission, said the security situation is not good enough for a vote to occur SO SOON. HEIDI VOGT (AP)

## In Brief



A scientist holds puppies South Korea claimed to have cloned using stem cells.

### SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA Company Claims It Cloned 2 Dogs Using Stem Cells

A South Korean biotech company claimed Thursday to have cloned dogs using a stem cell technology for the first time in the world. Seoul-based RNL Bio said it created two puppies this week using stem cells from fat tissue of a female beagle, in cooperation with a team of Seoul National University scientists who created the world's first cloned canine in 2005. U.S., Japanese and New Zealand scientists have already succeeded in cloning mice, pigs and deer using stem cells. (AP)

### HARARE, ZIMBABWE Zimbabwean Government Turns to Foreign Currencies

Zimbabwe's government admitted defeat Thursday in a fight against dizzying inflation, allowing business to be done in U.S. dollars and bank notes of neighboring countries. Zimbabwe has the world's highest official inflation, with its currency now printed in the trillions of dollars. The announcement by acting Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa acknowledged the black market practices that have been a reality for months because of Zimbabwe's economic meltdown. (AP)

### NAIROBI, KENYA Somali Pirates Seize German Gas Tanker in Gulf of Aden

Somali pirates hijacked a German tanker loaded with liquefied petroleum gas Thursday off the Horn of Africa. The ship's 13-man crew was reported safe, even though gunshots were heard over the ship's radio. The Bahamas-registered MV Longchamp is the third ship captured by pirates this month in the Gulf of Aden. (AP)





"With the inspired leadership of our new president, we finally have a federal partner who shares our commitment to progress."

— Md. Gov. Martin O'Malley, speaking at Thursday's State of the State address in Annapolis.

## Local

# Metro: \$5M Spent on Inauguration

## Transit agency plans to seek reimbursement funds from Congress

Metro spent more than \$5 million to operate extra service for Inauguration Day and the days immediately leading up to Jan. 20, according to a report that General Manager John B. Catoe Jr. gave to the Metro board Thursday.

The figure is an estimate sent to D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's office Wednesday with the under-

standing that the mayor's office would, in turn, include that figure in its request for reimbursement from Congress.

On Inauguration Day, Metro carried more people than on any other day in its 33-year-history: 1,120,000 train trips, 423,000 Metrobus trips, and 1,721 MetroAccess paratransit rides, for a total of 1,544,721 trips.

The agency ran an unprecedented 17 hours of rush-hour service on Inauguration Day, operating 974 rail cars during the busiest



Metro served a transit agency-record 1,544,721 riders on Inauguration Day.

period that afternoon, compared with about 830 rail cars during the typical weekday rush period.

In addition, in the 72 hours between Jan. 18 and Jan. 20, Metro ran 60 hours of rail service, setting ridership records for all three days.

The additional costs are not included in Metro's current budget. Catoe provided a review of Metro's inauguration weekend service at Wednesday's regular board meeting.

LENA H. SUN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

## Teams Compete In New Museum Design Contest

WASHINGTON | Six design teams — all with prominent black principals — will compete for two months to design a national black history museum on the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution announced Thursday.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture will likely be the last new museum building added to the grounds.

In early April, the six design proposals will go on display at the Smithsonian Castle for the public to help choose a winner by April 10. It will be the first time the Smithsonian has sought public comment in a museum design competition. BRETT ZONGKER (AP)

## BETHESDA, MD. | JUST ANOTHER SCHOOL DAY



**QUITE THE CLASS GUESTS:** President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk after arriving at Sidwell Friends School in Bethesda, Md., where their 7-year-old daughter Sasha is enrolled. The Obamas spent a little more than an hour at the school attending Sasha's class presentation. Michelle Obama's mother, Marian Robinson, joined them.

## The Lotteries

### Thursday, Jan. 29

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	<b>0-0-4</b>
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	<b>9-2-3</b>
Mid-day DC 4	<b>0-1-6-9</b>
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	<b>3-7-7-8</b>
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	<b>3-14-23-26-35</b>
Daily 6 (Wed.)	<b>5-14-27-28-30-34 Bonus: 37</b>
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	<b>9-17-32-36-37 (16)</b>

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	<b>9-5-2</b>
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	<b>4-8-5</b>
Mid-day Pick 4	<b>2-6-2-6</b>
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	<b>6-9-8-6</b>
Match 5 (Wed.)	<b>17-27-28-32-34 Bonus: 5</b>
Lotto (Wed.)	<b>7-13-24-32-33-39</b>

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	<b>8-3-2</b>
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	<b>9-7-8</b>
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	<b>2-3-7-1</b>
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	<b>4-6-0-5</b>
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	<b>2-9-17-23-32</b>
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	<b>14-20-27-33-34</b>
Win for Life (Wed.)	<b>3-11-12-14-21</b>

MULTI-STATE GAMES	
Powerball (Wed.)	<b>5-10-18-23-32 (4)</b>
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**BY THE NUMBERS:** The Maryland Transportation Authority has approved rate hikes at toll facilities. The changes are expected to generate about \$60 million more a year for the self-sustained agency.

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## Money

# Jobless Claims Hit Record

### 4.78M Americans file for unemployment in the middle of January

WASHINGTON | The number of people receiving unemployment benefits has reached the highest level on records that go back more than 40 years, the government said Thursday.

The Labor Department reported that the number of Americans continuing to claim unemployment insurance for the week ending Jan. 17 was a seasonally adjusted 4.78 million, the highest since records started in 1967.

As a proportion of the work force, the tally of unemployment benefit recipients is the highest

since August 1983, a department analyst said.

The jobless total released by the department doesn't include about 1.7 million people receiving benefits under an extended unemployment compensation program authorized by Congress last summer.

That means the total number of recipients is actually closer to 6.5 million people.

Businesses continued to hemorrhage jobs Thursday. Eastman Kodak Co. said it's cutting 3,500 to 4,500 jobs, or 14 to 18 percent of its work force, as it posted a

\$137 million quarterly loss on plunging sales of photography products. Black & Decker Corp. said its fourth-quarter profit tumbled 77 percent, and the power tools manufacturer announced about 1,200 job cuts.

The record number of ongoing jobless benefit claims is an indication that laid-off workers are having a difficult time finding new jobs, economists said.

The nation's unemployment rate jumped to 7.2 percent in December, a 16-year high. Employers cut an average of 510,000 jobs in the last three months of 2008.

Companies have announced about 130,000 layoffs in January, according to an Associated Press tally. CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER (AP)

# 7.2

The nation's  
unemployment  
rate, as of  
December. Ana-  
lysts expect it to  
rise significantly  
in January.



Iceicles form on the grille of a Ford vehicle on a dealer's lot in Omaha, Neb. Ford reported a \$5.9 billion loss in the fourth-quarter.

## Ford Reports Its Worst Year Ever

### Automaker maintains it will not seek bailout aid from government

DEARBORN, MICH. | After the worst annual loss in its 105-year history, Ford Motor Co. still doesn't plan to seek government aid, but it's borrowing more money and hinting at further restructuring to brace for a tough 2009 and any surprises from the unpredictable economy.

The second-largest U.S.-based automaker on Thursday reported a \$14.6 billion net loss for 2008,

beating its old record of \$12.6 billion set two years earlier. Ford lost \$5.9 billion in the fourth quarter, but more importantly it spent \$5.5 billion more than it took in, dropping its cash reserves to \$13.4 billion at year's end.

The company, like other automakers, predicted a slow start to the year with a small recovery in the second half aided by government stimulus packages. But Ford is behaving like it's expecting things to get worse.

Ford said its financing arm would cut about 20 percent of its

work force, or 1,200 full-time and contract jobs, as it deals with a smaller U.S. market.

To improve its liquidity, Ford also took \$2 billion set to go into a union-administered health care trust fund and converted it into a note payable at the end of 2009. As a result, the company has about \$25.5 billion in liquidity available.

But if Ford continues to burn cash at the pace it did in the fourth quarter, it could reach \$10 billion — the minimum amount required to operate the company — in about eight months. (AP)





## PREDICTIONS

**Heads or tails?** From the coin flip to game MVP, we make our fearless forecasts about Sunday's Super Bowl in Tampa. ||

# Sports Weekend

## For Old-Timer's Sake

### Veteran quarterback rises yet again to lead Arizona to Super Bowl

**SUPER BOWL** | Four years ago, Kurt Warner was having a hard time finding a job.

It was no matter that he had been to two Super Bowls and won one of them, or that he'd been an NFL and Super Bowl MVP. The perception was that he was washed-up, finished, that his storybook career was approaching an ignominious end.

Then the 37-year-old quarterback wrote the most amazing chapter of all with a season that might

### SUPER BOWL XLIII



cement him a spot on football's Hall of Fame, especially if he can lead the Arizona Cardinals, of all teams, to a Super Bowl victory Sunday over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"Hopefully, it would recognize him for exactly what he is — one of the best players to ever play his position," his coach, Ken Whisenhunt, said.

Warner's return to the top is a dominant theme leading up to this Super Bowl, just as it was in his 1999 season.

"Most times when you do something great, it's not overnight," he said. "It's not something that comes easy. It comes with a lot of hard work, a lot of time, a lot of commitment."

The comment pretty much sums up his life.

His route to the NFL includ-



Kurt Warner, 37, rejoices after the Arizona Cardinals won the NFC Championship. He will play in his third Super Bowl on Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

**“It would recognize him for exactly what he is — one of the best players to ever play his position.”**

KEN WHISENHUNT, ARIZONA COACH

ed three seasons with the Iowa Barnstormers of the Arena Football League and two years with the Amsterdam Admirals in NFL Europe. Before the 1999 season, Warner was a backup with the Rams when starter Trent Green was injured. Coach Dick Vermeil turned to Warner, and the result was one of the most prolific offenses in NFL history.

Even in Arizona, success never came easily.

He found an offensive rhythm this year with his powerhouse group of receivers, and the Cardinals took flight. His statistics this season rival those of his St. Louis days, finishing second in the NFL in completions (401), second in completion percentage (67.1), second in yards passing (4,583) and third in passing touchdowns (30).

Warner will make his 20th start of the season on Sunday, the most of his career. As far as his teammates are concerned, he's already a Hall of Famer. "I told him after the NFC championship that I just want a ticket to Canton, Ohio, when he gets in," defensive end Bertrand Berry said. BOB BAUM (AP)

### As time goes by | Kurt Warner's long, strange journey

<b>1994</b> The Green Bay Packers cut Warner at the end of training camp.	<b>1997</b> Warner leads Iowa Barnstormers to a second-straight Arena Bowl.	<b>1999</b> Warner wins NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP with the St. Louis Rams.	<b>2005</b> After being released by the Giants, Warner signs with the Cardinals.	<b>2009</b> Warner leads Cardinals to 3 playoffs wins and spot in Super Bowl.
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### TV Lineup



Roger Federer breezed past Andy Roddick on Thursday at the Aussie Open.

### friday

**7 P.M.** Now officially the worst team in the NBA, the Washington Wizards visit the Philadelphia 76ers. CSN

**7 P.M.** The Boston Celtics face the Detroit Pistons, followed by the Golden State Warriors versus the New Orleans Hornets. ESPN

### saturday

**3:30 A.M.** Serena Williams faces Dinari Safina in the women's final of the Australian Open. ESPN2

**12:30 P.M.** The Capitals visit the Detroit Red Wings in a possible preview of the Stanley Cup finals. CSN

**2 P.M.** The loser of four straight, Georgetown visits Marquette in its third consecutive Big East road game. MASN

**7 P.M.** George Mason plays Old Dominion in a critical CAA test. CSN

**8 P.M.** Can Maryland snap out of its funk when hosting Miami in an ACC contest? My20

### sunday

**3:30 A.M.** After defeating Andy Roddick in straight sets Thursday, Roger Federer has a shot at the 14th major title of his career. ESPN2

**12:30 P.M.** The Capitals can get their game in against the Ottawa Senators and then watch the Super Bowl. CSN

**3 P.M.** Virginia's men's basketball team tries to upset Duke. (Joined in progress.) CSN

**6 P.M.** Opposites attract when the Arizona Cardinals play the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII from Tampa, Fla. NBC



**BASEBALL | Last chapter** The New York Yankees have apparently read enough about former manager Joe Torre's book. The week after the book criticizing the Yankees organization was released, the team is mulling whether to include a clause prohibiting

future players and managers from writing their own tell-alls, New York's Newsday is reporting. In his book, Torre referred to superstar third baseman Alex Rodriguez as "A-Fraud," causing a major stir in the Big Apple. Torre is now managing the Los Angeles Dodgers after being fired in 2007 by the Yankees. (EXPRESS)



# Take 2 for Big Ben

Roethlisberger hopes for a better Super Bowl performance this time

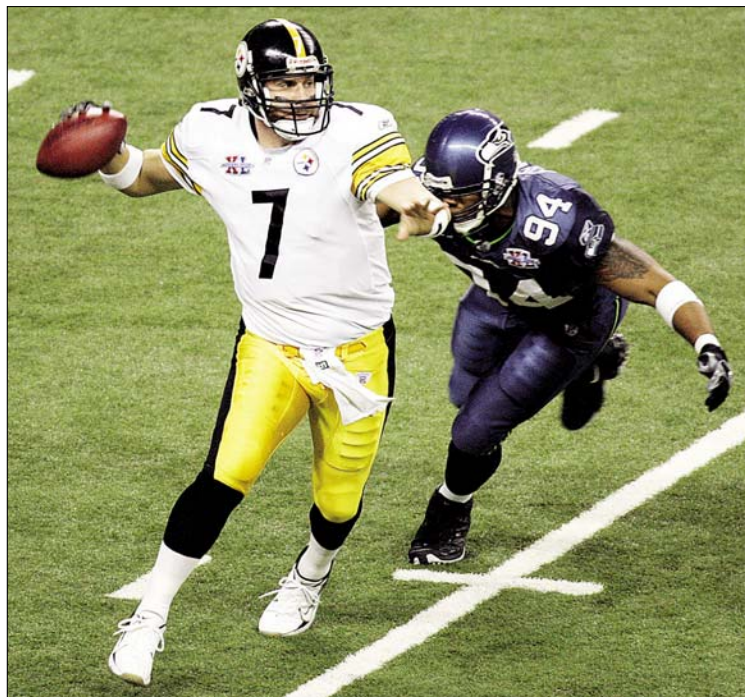
**SUPER BOWL** | Ben Roethlisberger was along for the ride, and he knows it.

Some teams win a Super Bowl because of their quarterback; the Pittsburgh Steelers managed not to lose one in Detroit three years ago despite Big Ben's self-described bad game.

As nervous as a teenager taking his driving test, Roethlisberger was 9-of-21 with two interceptions and a 22.6 passer rating. He was so ineffective, the Steelers needed a wide receiver, Antwaan Randle El, to throw the pivotal touchdown pass as they beat Seattle 21-10.

Roethlisberger became the youngest quarterback to win a Super Bowl, at age 23, but he was as much relieved as he was happy. Not long after, the mood of a player better known for his competitiveness than his perfectly placed spirals began to change.

"I obviously got a little bit upset



Three years ago in Super Bowl XL, the Steelers won despite quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's 9-of-21, two-interception performance. He had a passer rating of 22.6.

I didn't play so well; I let the guys down," Roethlisberger said Tuesday, a three-deep crowd huddled around his Super Bowl media day podium. "It fuels the fire that you

want to come out and play a better game the next time. You have to get over the initial hoopla, the flash, the lights and just make it a game."

Just a game. There's no such

thing to Roethlisberger, who is such a competitor that he rarely holds the door open for someone because he doesn't want anyone — sometimes, even a date — beating him outside.

A friendly game of cards, a swat of the ping-pong paddle, a determined dribble of the basketball — almost anything sets off Big Ben, the man who refuses to lose. So, imagine what a football game does.

Imagine what this second Super Bowl in four years is doing, the one he will play Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals and coach Ken Whisenhunt, his offensive coordinator in that Detroit Super Bowl.

Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner doesn't need to imagine. To beat the Steelers, he must outplay Roethlisberger, and he knows how difficult that can be. A classic pocket passer, Warner watches on tape how the 6-foot-5 Roethlisberger shakes off 300-pound defensive linemen, escapes a pass rush and creates a big play out of a broken one.

"He's so much more athletic than me," Warner said. "I'm a guy that stays in there and is really built on just staying in there and making the forward pass. He's got great strengths outside of that part of it, which, obviously, I don't."

ALAN ROBINSON (AP)

## Swengali

**SUPER BOWL** | BY MATT SWENSON

## An Old-Fashioned Super Bowl Chat

**CALL ME OLD-FASHIONED.**

Nice to meet you.

Anything going on this weekend?

Well, there is the Super Bowl.

Ah, Packers-Chiefs?

Um, no. The Arizona Cardinals are playing the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Arizona has a team?

It used to be in St. Louis.

I don't like it.

The Cardinals are fun to watch. Old man Kurt Warner should be right up your alley.

Huh.

He's already been to two Super Bowls — he won one — and he has been great throwing to Larry Fitzgerald in the playoffs.

**Arizona can build tradition with a Super Bowl title.**

Passing is for sissies.

I think you're fighting an uphill battle there.

That's how I like them.

Most people think the Steelers are going to win.

Me, too.

Why's that?

The Steelers have tradition. I like that.

Arizona can build tradition with a Super Bowl title.

That's just crazy talk. Championships are won with running and defense. All you tell me about this Arizona team is that it throws a lot.

Wow.

What's that, Sonny?

You made a valid point.

Naturally.

Arizona has beaten a lot of good defenses in the playoffs, though.

Not like Pittsburgh's. It's physical; how real men should be.

Maybe. We'll see.

Never bet against tradition. Now, where's that moonshine?

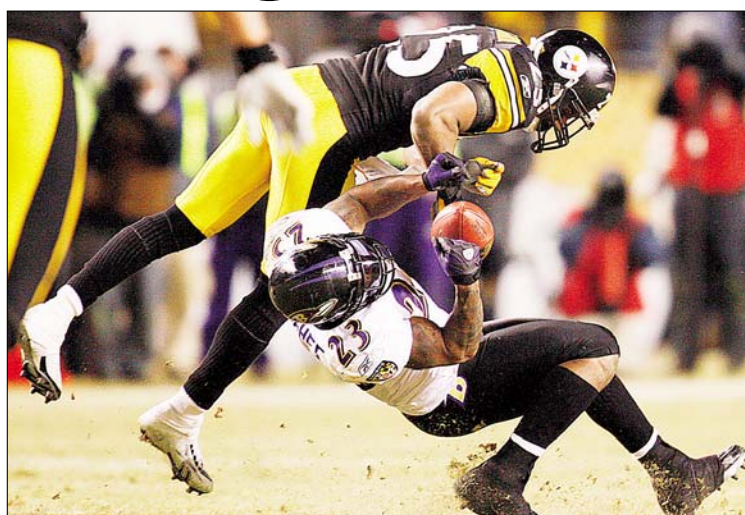
# A Hard-Hitting Brand of Football

The Cardinals prepare for Steelers' defense's hit-or-be-hit mentality

**SUPER BOWL** | Ryan Clark levels Willis McGahee and Wes Welker. Hines Ward breaks Keith Rivers' jaw. James Farrior stacks up Derrick Ward.

The Pittsburgh Steelers don't deliberately try to injure opposing players. It's just that it happens sometimes when a team is taught to hit only two ways: hard and harder.

The Steelers are as physical as it gets in the NFL, and the Arizona Cardinals understand they must be prepared to match that hit-or-be-hit mentality if they want to win the Super Bowl. The Ravens-Steelers AFC championship game might have been the NFL's most punishing all season, and the Cardinals



Steelers safety Ryan Clark delivers a wicked hit on Baltimore Ravens running back Willis McGahee in the fourth quarter of the AFC championship game on Jan. 23.

know what's ahead.

"They're definitely different," Cardinals linebacker Karlos Dansby said Wednesday. "They fly around to the ball and they play with a pas-

sion, and that's a beautiful thing when you see a team play with a lot of passion. ... You admire stuff like that, seeing people coming down, making big hits."

Playing with toughness and an edge didn't begin in Pittsburgh with the Bill Cowher or Chuck Noll eras, either. The Steelers teams of coach Buddy Parker were rugged, hard-hitting and nasty in the late 1950s and early 1960s, too, although they didn't win like their predecessors did.

The Steelers transformed physical play into an art form during the Steel Curtain days, an image personified by Jack Lambert's body-slam hits, Joe Greene's meanness, Mike Webster's blocking and Mel Blount's punishment of wide receivers at the line of scrimmage.

"The way they ran the ball in the 1970s, the way they played defense, you had to be physical," cornerback Deshaun Townsend said. "Pittsburgh, it's a tough city. A lot of hard-nosed people live in that city, so you have to be that type of team to fit in there." ALAN ROBINSON (AP)

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com



**CLINTON YATES**  
EXPRESS  
SPORTS  
CONTRIBUTOR

**SUPER BOWL PICKS**

**WINNER:**  
Cardinals

**WILL THEY REPEAT?**  
Obviously

**MVP:**  
Kurt Warner

**OVER/UNDER 46.5?**  
Under

**COIN TOSS RESULT:**  
Tails

**1ST PLAYER  
TO SCORE:**  
Heath Miller

**LAST PLAYER  
TO SCORE:**  
Jeff Reed

**TOP DEFENDER:**  
Antrel Rolle

**NUMBER OF LARRY  
FITZGERALD TDS:**  
2

**SACKS ALLOWED  
BY PITTSBURGH:**  
3

**POINTS SCORED BY  
STEELERS' DEFENSE:**  
0

**LONGEST RUN  
OF THE GAME:**  
50 yards by Arrington

**NUMBER OF  
PENALTIES:**  
7

**UNLIKELY HERO:**  
Anquan Boldin

**UNSUNG HERO:**  
Russ Grimm

**KURT WARNER  
BIBLE REFERENCES:**  
1 per Arizona TD

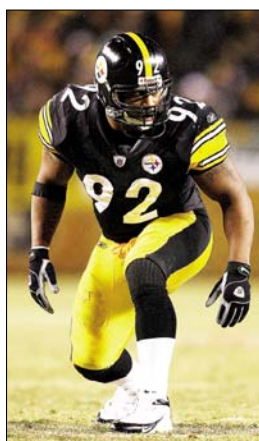
**NUMBER OF JOHN  
MADDEN "BOOMS":**  
15

**COMPANY WITH  
BEST TV AD:**  
Miller High Life

**BIGGEST SURPRISE:**  
Roethlisberger punt

# Must-See Matchups

Four battles that may sway the Super Bowl



AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

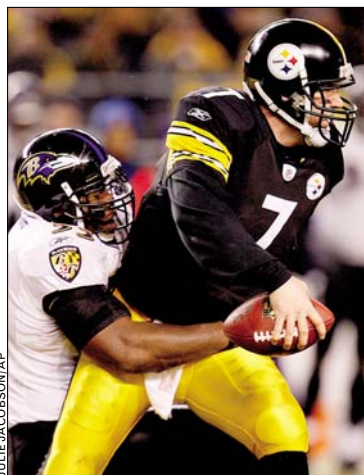
CARDINALS HAVE THE BALL

## OL Mike Gandy vs. LB James Harrison

If Arizona is going to have any success throwing, quarterback Kurt Warner can't spend too much time on his back Sunday. That protection will be most important on Warner's weak side, where NFL Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison will be rushing from. His 16 sacks will surely keep left tackle Mike Gandy worried — especially given Warner's nasty habit of fumbling when hit hard. Just remember how the Giants' pass rush won last year's Super Bowl against the almighty Patriots. **MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)**

## 2 STEELERS HAVE THE BALL QB Ben Roethlisberger Vs. Cardinals' D-Line

Yes, Ben Roethlisberger is a winner. Yes, he has a cannon of a right arm. Yes, he could start on just about any NFL team. But he does hold onto the ball too long. This shows up most on the stat sheet in the sacks column. He was dropped 47 times by opponents and gave Steelers Nation a major scare with a concussion during the regular season's final week. The Ravens got to him four times in the AFC championship game. Arizona, for its part, has seven sacks in three postseason games this year. In case you're wondering, D.C.'s Byron Leftwich is still Big Ben's backup in Pittsburgh.

JULIE JACOBSON/AP  
Ben Roethlisberger was sacked four times in the AFC championship game.

THE COACHES

## Arizona's Ken Whisenhunt Vs. Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin

By now, everybody knows these two were up for the same position when Bill Cowher stepped down as head coach of the Steelers. It's hard to argue with either's success. Tomlin has kept Pittsburgh a perennial contender while Whisenhunt's getting Arizona to the Super Bowl is a borderline miracle. Remember, it's Whisenhunt, the former Pittsburgh offensive coordinator, who has experience in the big game. Tomlin will be a newbie, though nothing about him suggests nerves will be an issue.



CHRIS GRAY/THEN/GETTY IMAGES

Larry Fitzgerald scored three touchdowns versus the Eagles.

## 4 CARDINALS HAVE THE BALL WR Larry Fitzgerald Vs. CB Ike Taylor

If you listen to the pundits, it's almost a given Larry Fitzgerald is going to score on Sunday. On the way to vaulting to the NFL's top receiver, the former University of Pittsburgh star has already set a record for the most postseason yards receiving (419 yards). Oh, by the way, he's scored five touchdowns in the playoffs, too, three of which came against the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC title game. Clearly, Taylor won't be alone covering him. But the Steelers will also need to focus on fellow receivers Anquan Boldin and Steve Breaston.

## By the Numbers

**2** The number of playoff victories the Cardinals had before this year: the 1947 NFL championship game and a 1998 wild-card upset of Dallas.

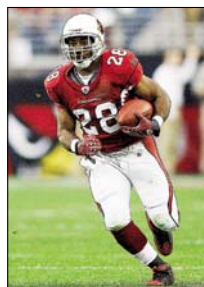
**3** The number of coaches the Pittsburgh Steelers have had since 1969.

**75** The number of yards Willie Parker ran for a touchdown in the Steelers' victory over the Seahawks in Super Bowl XL. It's the longest rushing score in Super Bowl history.

**414** The most passing yards thrown in a Super Bowl, set by Kurt Warner in the Rams' win over the Titans in Super Bowl XXXIV.

## THIS YEAR'S DAVID TYREE WILL BE ...

The Giants wide receiver became an unlikely hero last year with arguably the best catch in Super Bowl history. Here are some candidates to be stars on Sunday:



→ **Santonio Holmes, WR, Steelers** — He has become big-play receiver and punt returner in his third NFL season.

→ **Limas Sweed, WR, Steelers** — The second-round draft pick from Texas has sneakiness to get deep and won't ever be covered like a primary receiver by Cardinals.

→ **Mewelde Moore, RB, Steelers** — Runs back kickoffs and punts, and filled in well for an injured Willie Parker this season.

→ **Sean Morey, WR, Cardinals** — Like Tyree, he's had to grind for everything in his eight-year career.

→ **Jerheme Urban, WR, Cardinals** — The fourth wideout, he averaged 13.2 yards on 34 receptions and scored four TDs this year.

→ **J.J. Arrington, RB, Cardinals** — A versatile player, shown, who has never lived up to second-round draft status in 2005, he has become a steady contributor. (AP)

**MATT SWENSON**  
EXPRESS  
SPORTS  
COLUMNIST

**SUPER BOWL PICKS**

**WINNER:**  
Steelers

**WILL THEY REPEAT?**  
No

**MVP:**  
Ben Roethlisberger

**OVER/UNDER 46.5?**  
Over

**COIN TOSS RESULT:**  
Heads

**1ST PLAYER  
TO SCORE:**  
Anquan Boldin

**LAST PLAYER  
TO SCORE:**  
Willie Parker

**TOP DEFENDER:**  
Troy Polamalu

**NUMBER OF LARRY  
FITZGERALD TDS:**  
0

**SACKS ALLOWED  
BY PITTSBURGH:**  
4

**POINTS SCORED BY  
STEELERS' DEFENSE:**  
9 (1 TD, 1 safety)

**LONGEST RUN  
OF THE GAME:**  
35 yards by Parker

**NUMBER OF  
PENALTIES:**  
9

**UNLIKELY HERO:**  
Mewelde Moore

**UNSUNG HERO:**  
Heath Miller

**KURT WARNER  
BIBLE REFERENCES:**  
3

**NUMBER OF JOHN  
MADDEN "BOOMS":**  
9

**COMPANY WITH  
BEST TV AD:**  
Any using a monkey

**BIGGEST SURPRISE:**  
Matt Leinart plays



# Entertainment Weekend

## TRIBUTE

**50 Years Ago Today:** Honor the anniversary of Buddy Holly's death with a musical tribute at Surf Club Live this Saturday night. | 13



**THE CHEESE STANDS ALONE:** Harry Connick Jr. and Renee Zellweger try their best to play up the laughs in "New in Town."

## Nothing 'New'

**This 'comedy' is just what it appears to be: soggy and boring**

**FILMS** | Good people of Minnesota: Stand up! Fight back! Take back your state and your culture and your accent!

Because if you don't, movies like "New in Town" will continue to blow through and tear things

up at your expense, allegedly in the name of comedy.

This soggy fish-out-of-water slog, starring Renee Zellweger as a Miami executive forced to move to tiny New Ulm, Minn., is chock-full of stereotypically folksy folks, people whose conversations are peppered with plenty of "Oh, yas" and "You betchas." All the women like scrapbooking and all the men like ice fishing. All of them.

The only vaguely funny bit comes when Zellweger's Lucy Hill spouts a litany of business jargon while awkwardly trying to make nice with the locals over a few beers, and they turn it into a drinking game.

Even if it had tried to capitalize on the popularity of " Fargo " and come out more than a decade ago, it still wouldn't have been remotely funny. Not only is the parody far from fresh, but it also doesn't reveal

any worthwhile insight. The generic title alone should indicate how utterly bereft of creativity "New in Town" truly is.

Lucy, who's climbing the ladder at a snack food corporation, is assigned to one of its factories in the frigid north with the ultimate task of shutting it down. But before she sets a single stiletto-heeled foot on the ice, you know how this is going to turn out.

She just might end up liking the place and its people. Maybe she'll even find a way to keep the factory running. And you know the second she clashes with blue-collar union rep Ted (a low-key Harry Connick Jr.) that the two will eventually fall for each other.

Along the way, Lucy crashes her car to avoid hitting some livestock, falls face-first into a snow bank and drunkenly tumbles off her front porch. Clearly, Zellweger is up for the challenges of slapstick humor (see: Bridget Jones), but she gets nothing clever or light to work with here, and with her severe bob haircut and the harsh way she's shot, all the forces conspire against her to turn Lucy into an irreparably unappealing character.

Of course the script from Minneapolis native Kenneth Rance and C. Jay Cox ("Sweet Home Alabama") is overly familiar and formulaic, as so many are — it's the flat, hokey, one-note way Danish director Jonas Elmer gets us there that's so depressing. **CHRISTY**

LEMIRE (AP)

## Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

**My birthday is next week, and I'm looking for a young/chic lounge or restaurant in the vicinity of the Washington Convention Center.**

Chocolate haven Co Co. Sala certainly has you covered on the chic part. The cocktails are really good (especially for a sweet tooth). Or try Sei, the new sushi-sake-fusion small plates lounge in Penn Quarter.

→ *Co Co. Sala*, 929 F St. NW; 202-347-4265. (Gallery Place)

→ *Sei*, 444 Seventh St. NW; 202-783-7007. (Gallery Place)



Another samosa-lovers option is to pick them up at local Indian markets.

**I'm desperately craving a good samosa. Any suggestions on where to pick a few up in D.C. or Alexandria?**

Recently, I've had great samosas at Himalayan Heritage in Adams Morgan, or you could try Heritage India for something closer to the central business district. Oh — I almost forgot Taj of India, one of my favorite delivery spots.

→ *Himalayan Heritage*, 2305 18th St. NW; 202-483-9300. (Woodley Park)

→ *Heritage India*, 1337 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-331-1414. (Dupont Circle)

→ *Taj of India*, 2809 M St. NW; 202-965-4266.

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/liveonline](http://WASHINGTONPOST.COM/liveonline)

## 'Taken' a Chance on Neeson

**Acclaimed actor kicks butt in unexpectedly fun revenge thriller**

**FILM** | A great deal of the allure in "Taken" comes from the wild juxtaposition of its premise: the idea of Liam Neeson — esteemed, acclaimed, 56-year-old Liam Neeson — kicking all kinds of butt in a Euro B-revenge thriller.

Yes, Pierre Morel's film moves with breathlessly incessant fluid-

ity and speed; that's a given from the director of the French action flick "District B13," working from a script co-written by Luc Besson, for whom this sort of trashy adventure is his baguette and butter. But cast someone you've never heard of in the lead role and it might not have worked nearly so well.

Neeson seems to be having a blast, too, unleashing chaos as former CIA operative Bryan Mills. Bryan's been trying to live a quiet life in Los Angeles, where he's



Neeson elevates your average Euro-action flick to something even more fun.

moved to be closer to his 17-year-old daughter, Kim (Maggie Grace), who he neglected for years while he was out tracking baddies around the globe.

But when Kim and her girlfriend are kidnapped, Bryan must dash around to prevent a group of Albanian goons from selling her into sex slavery. It's all sordid and unseemly, but if you can get past that, "Taken" is also unexpectedly fun in a guilty-pleasure sort of way. **CHRISTY**

LEMIRE (AP)



# Entertainment Weekend

## Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

### FRIDAY

We have to admit that we didn't think too much of the **RED LOUNGE** — the bar and dance floor above International Grill on 14th Street NW — when it burst onto the scene last year, but it has managed to wrangle itself some of D.C.'s more interesting dance nights without charging a cover. The recent Fatback anniversary there was a sweaty mess with surprisingly good sound, so we have high hopes for the lounge's \$weat\$hop tonight. It promises Sneakers in the Club DJs Trevor Martin and Jackie O getting the kids crunk (or whatever they call it these days) and a straight-up mix of hip-hop, Baltimore Club, electro, bass, etc. (Make up a subgenre and someone might play it for you.) Come dressed to dance and dressed to sweat, but don't worry about paying the cover, because there isn't one. Doors open at 9 p.m.

D.C.'s preeminent hip-hop hustler/educator, Bomani Armah of "Read a Book" fame, has been working hard to counteract the complaints of every grown-up hip-hop head who doesn't think there are any shows worth patronizing. Tonight's Radio Friendly Recession Rent Party at **ARTMOSPHERE** features Bomani rocking his humorous and



**INSPIRING A GENERATION OF HIPSTERS:** Buddy Holly and his iconic spectacles.

astute rhymes with his live funk band, minus all the annoyances the mature hip-hop head has grown to loathe, including heavy door pressure, much-delayed start times, and drawn-out and lame opening acts lacking in showmanship. The show's theme isn't just a catchy meme: Admission is only \$5.

### SATURDAY

Feb. 3 marks the 50th anniversary of "The Day the Music Died," when a plane crash took the lives of early rock 'n' roll stars Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper. Perhaps you've seen a recounting in a movie starring Lou Diamond Phillips or Gary Busey, or pieced it all together thanks to Don McLean's "American Pie." But, really, you should just listen to every Holly record you can find if you want to know what a huge loss it was for the music world. Holly was just 22 when he died in 1959, and he had already penned a slew of hits — "That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," "Not Fade Away" and "It's So Easy" among them — and it's not exactly outlandish to say that had he lived and continued at his pace he would have landed at that sweet spot the Beatles hit before the Fab Four did. That's just fun rock 'n' roll speculation, though, and even with a catalog limited to a few dozen songs, it's still plenty worth celebrating. That's why every

year around this time, local rockabilly fave J.P. McDermott rounds up a crew of friends to pay tribute to one of rock's greatest talents. Joining J.P. at **SURF CLUB LIVE**, members of the Slickee Boys, Hall Monitors, Grandsons, Last Train Home, the Thrillbillys and the Billy Coulter Band will work their way through one of the best — but briefest — songbooks in the rock canon.

In terms of **BLACK CAT** dance nights, Homo/Sonic has been one of the growers. Since getting its start as a one-off on the backstage last year, Homo/Sonic — billed as "an alternative co-ed dance party for queer folks and their friends" — has become a solid night of dance floor-friendly Britpop, electro and alternative hits. Earlier this month, the playlist stuck pretty close to the M.I.A./Ting Tings/Hot Chip axis, with multiple appearances by the Pet Shop Boys for good measure, but also a healthy dose of fun, left-field songs by the Pipettes, Bratmobile, B-52s and Dead or Alive. Anyway, Homo/Sonic makes an unusual second-time-in-a-month return to the club tonight, landing on the mainstage while Razzmatazz provides the Pulp/New Order/Lily Allen Britpoppy goodness downstairs. Doors for both open at 9:30 p.m.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at [washingtonpost.com/cityguide](http://washingtonpost.com/cityguide)



**READ A BOOK!** Rapper and D.C. native Bomani Armah performs on Friday.

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## Now Playing

**CHE** (R, 257 minutes) In Steven Soderbergh's sprawling yet surprisingly taut two-part retelling of Che Guevara's life during the Cuban revolution and his ill-fated attempt to bring the fight to Bolivia, he comes into sharp, sympathetic focus, by way of an extraordinary performance by Benicio Del Toro. (AH)

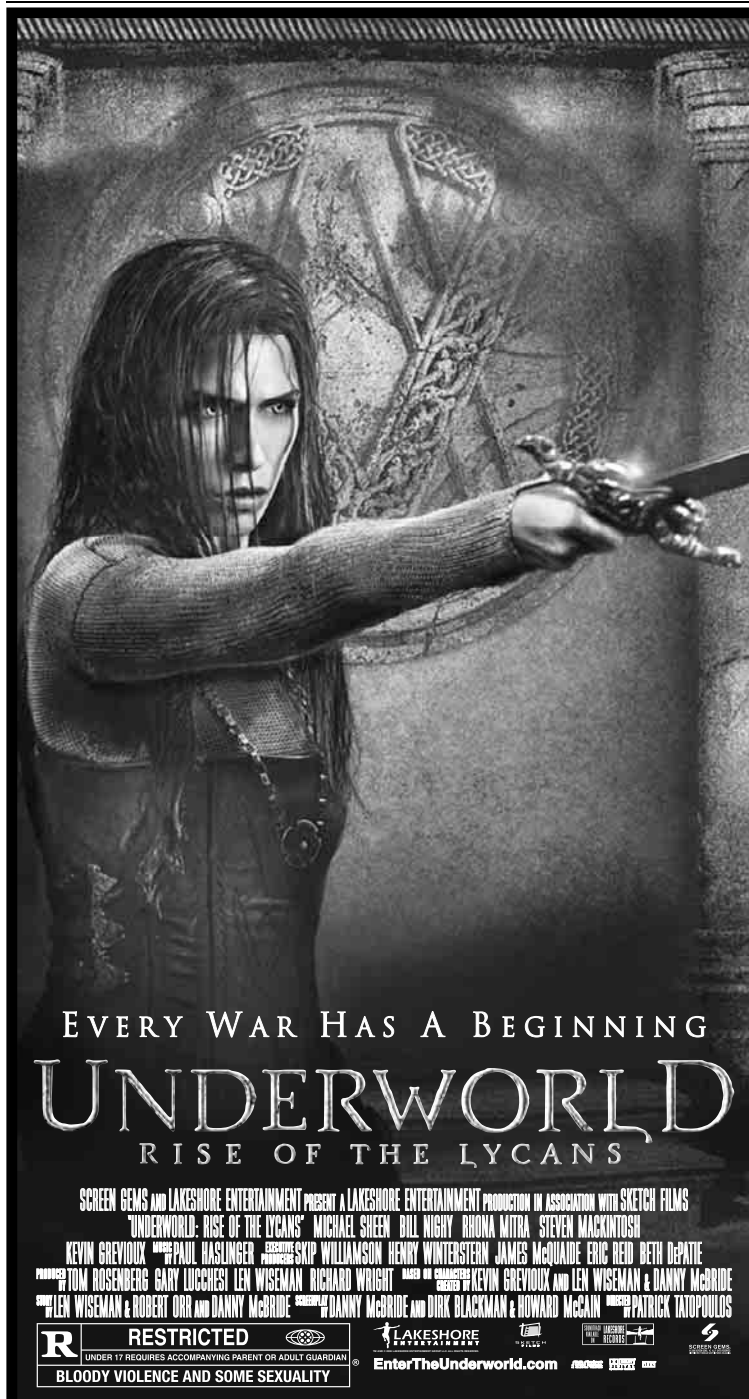
**DEFIANCE** (R, 137 minutes) Edward



**CANINE CONUNDRUM:** Emma Roberts and Jake T. Austin in "Hotel for Dogs."

Zwick's often-stirring movie dramatizes the true story of Zus and Tuvia Bielski (Liev Schreiber and Daniel Craig), Jewish brothers who eluded their Nazi captors during World War II in what is now Belarus. Zus and Tuvia helped their fellow Jews escape the German SS and their collaborators. Zwick has perfected the art of marrying bombastic action, aestheticized violence and historical import, and he marshals all three effectively to bring this little-known and amazing story to life. (AH)

**FROST/NIXON** (R, 122 minutes) You expect something dry, historical and probably contrived here. But you get a delicious contest of wits, brilliant act



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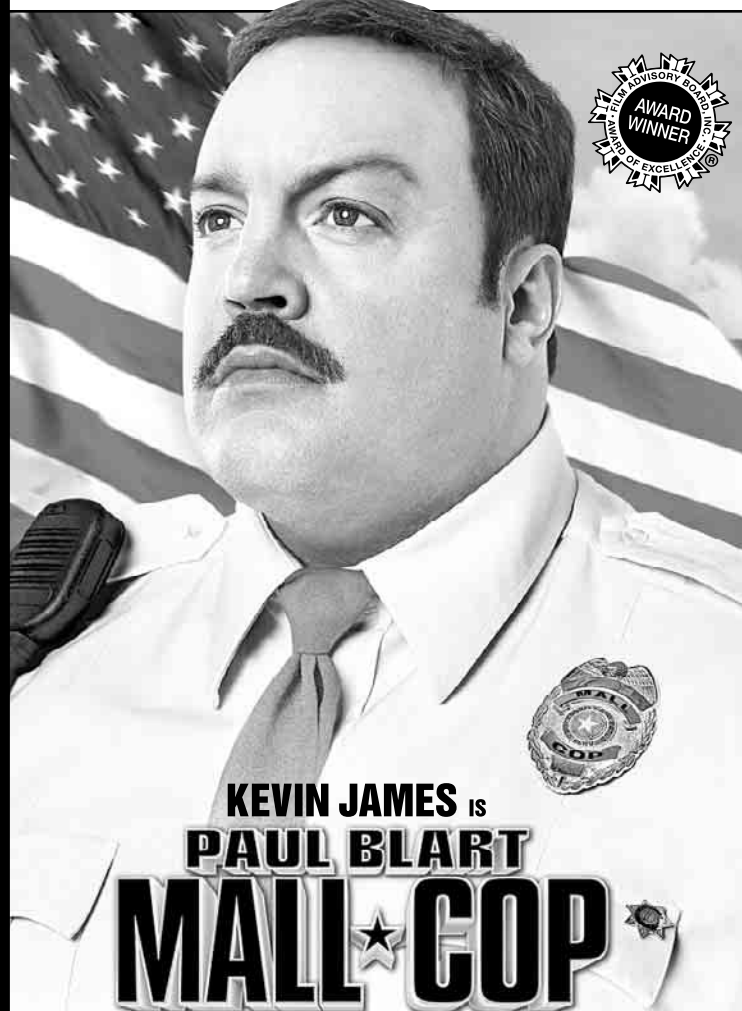
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# Entertainment **Weekend**

## Now Playing

ing and a surprisingly gripping narrative—no less dramatic even though the results are a foregone conclusion. The writing is so good, the acting so powerful, that the film goes well beyond the courtroom drama into the territory of the classic history play. (PK)

**HOTEL FOR DOGS** (PG, 100 minutes) This comedy, starring perfectly pleasant up-and-comer Emma Roberts (Julia's niece), is about kids, not parents. Andi (Roberts) and Bruce (Jake T. Austin) have been parentless for three years, smuggling their dog, Friday, from foster home to foster home, always getting evicted after infractions, violations or minor criminal acts. Deprived of affection, guidance and decent nutrition, Andi and Bruce stumble on an abandoned hotel in downtown Los Angeles and decide to turn it into a home for unwanted pups. For all the latent social criticism of the film, it's a candy-coated romp through death and abandonment. (JA)

**INKHEART** (PG, 106 minutes) In Iain Softley's vivid, sometimes lurid adaptation of the young people's novel by Cornelia Funke, Brendan Fraser plays Mortimer "Mo" Folchart, a "silver-tongue" who can make stories come to life by reading them aloud. Mo and



SCREEN GEMS

**VAMPIRE PRINCESS:** Rhona Mitra in "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans."

daughter Meggie (Eliza Hope Bennett) travel to a Swiss town to search for an obscure novel called "Inkheart," which he was reading to Meggie when she was a toddler and things went desperately awry. (AH)

**LAST CHANCE HARVEY** (PG-13, 99 minutes) This quiet romantic comedy takes a cinematic chestnut (two meet fleetingly, spend time together and embark on a tentative romance until fate intervenes)

and somehow infuses it with a sense of rue and regret that makes it seem new. Dustin Hoffman plays a jingle writer who travels to London for his daughter's wedding. When he meets Kate (Emma Thompson), a mutual recognition of souls transpires, and the two wind up spending a day walking London's lively South Bank. (AH)

**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3-D** (R, 101 minutes) No cartoon cuddliness in this hand-drips-blood-in-your-lap exploitation picture that lacks the subtlety or horror foreplay of the original. The plot staggers from absurd to ridiculous, and we don't have enough time with any of the characters to wish them well in the face of certain death. But if horror in general is the last great communal movie experience, 3-D just heightens the shared fun. (ORLANDO SENTINEL)

**NOT EASILY BROKEN** (PG-13, 100 minutes) This spiritually infused melodrama falls prey to many of the usual shortcomings of movies that secretly want to be sermons: starchy contrivance and didacticism. But it also exerts an unmistakable appeal, thanks to an absorbing story and fine performances from Morris Chestnut and Taraji P. Henson. (AH)

**NOTORIOUS** (R, 100 minutes) This biopic about the life and death of Notorious B.I.G., feels like Biggie's Wikipedia page reformatted for the big screen.

*Continued on page 16*

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# Weekend Entertainment



## out there

SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

**Q** Where would you go on your honeymoon?

EXPRESS WEDDING EXPO | JAN. 28

**1.** "Outer space," accountant Rory Smith, left, with accountant Jessica Chu. **2.** "Dubai," Miss Black District of Columbia 2009 Breyuna Williams. **3.** "Australia," Laura Birkhimer, mother, left. "Paris," physical therapist Marijo Birkhimer. **4.** "Bora Bora," administrative assistant Khanh Phan, left. "Around the world," attorney Mai Phan. **5.** "Australia," graduate student Whitney Stone, left, with Emily Carter and Lindsay Housden. **6.** "Australia or Spain, or both," technical writer Kamillah Phillips. TEXT AND PHOTOS BY CAROLINE BRIDGES

## Now Playing

Continued from page 15

(CHRIS RICHARDS)

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP** (PG, 90 minutes) Even though this film was co-produced by Adam Sandler, it never sinks to scatological humor. That's pretty much where the accolades end for this mediocre, unmemorable comedy. Kevin James plays an overweight mall security officer named Paul Blart. On a particularly unfortunate Black Friday, a posse of thieves assumes control of the mall and starts to take hostages. (JEN CHANEY)

**THE READER** (R, 123 minutes) Bernhard Schlink's highly regarded novel receives a graceful, absorbing screen adaptation. Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes deliver fine performances as the tortured souls at the center of this wrenching portrait of Germany reckoning with its Nazi past. But the standout here is 18-year-old German actor David Kross, whose portrayal of a teenager Michael Berg suggests a promising future. (AH)

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD** (R, 119 minutes) Sam Mendes' dirge-like adaptation of the 1961 novel by Richard Yates exerts an undeniable pull as its beautiful, doomed protagonists navigate the ennui of adult life in 1950s suburbia. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet play Frank and April Wheeler,



**STORYBOOK ENDING:** Eliza Hope Bennett as Meggie in "Inkheart," a fantasy about the adventures and dangers of reading.

who are leading lives of not-very-quiet desperation. (AH)

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE** (R, 121 minutes) The resourceful, unerringly grounded title character is Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a lanky kid from the Mumbai

slums whom we meet just after he wins 10 million rupees on India's own version of the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" TV show. Accused of cheating, Jamal is taken into custody by the Mumbai police, and he proceeds to tell them his story, a

tale of one boy's decidedly unsentimental education by way of poverty, tribal strife, abandonment, exploitation, criminal gangs and star-crossed love. (AH)

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS** (R, 92 minutes.) An impressive cast

of British actors lend Shakespearean importance to this dark and hilariously grandiose vampires-versus-were-wolves saga. High school-age fans of gothic horror ought to be entertained. (JANE HORWITZ)

**VALKYRIE** (PG-13, 120 minutes) Expectations for Tom Cruise's history-based thriller about an attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler were low. And against all expectations he has fashioned a successful if not exceptional film. (PK)

**THE WRESTLER** (R, 109 minutes) As washed-up onetime ringmaster Randy "The Ram" Robinson, Mickey Rourke embodies the same tragedy of ego that afflicts his character. As good as Rourke is, his performance constantly begs the question of whether the story would be worth telling without him. Marisa Tomei, as Cassidy the pole dancer, delivers a courageous performance; both Randy and Cassidy exist in fairly shadowy worlds that thrive on youth, and both are aging out. But in the broader sense, Randy is another in a long line of American screen characters who are facing the inevitable and can't ease their regrets. We feel for him. And we feel for us. Maybe that's enough. (JA)



REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)





## 2 Film Noir Friday

Inauguration's over, people, and D.C. is back to being its old, boring self. Road trip? Road trip! Well, tiny road trip. Drive out to Culpeper, Va., (about 90 minutes away) to the Library of Congress' satellite location for a free movie. This week it's "Laura," the classic film noir about a woman (Gene Tierney) who is murdered and the P.I. assigned to investigate the case. F.Z.

→ *Library of Congress, Packard Campus, 19053 Mount Pony Road, Culpeper, Va.; Fri., 7:30 p.m., free; 202-707-9994.*



## 4 Historical Society is Hip to the Hop

Just because it's a historical society doesn't mean it has to be boring. Check out a free screening of "Freestyle: the Art of Rhyme" as part of the Hip-Hop Cinema Cafe, which also includes panel discussions with local MCs and an appearance by the Package. F.Z.

→ *Historical Society of Washington, 801 K St. NW; Sat., 2 p.m., free; 202-383-1850. (Mt. Vernon Square)*



## 5 Nordic Charm

Move over, Mesopotamia. Sweden is clearly the cradle of civilization. After all, we're talking about the place that produced ABBA and Ace of Base. Now, 22-year-old pop pixie Lykke Li will bring honor to her homeland with her performance at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue. NICOLE OCRAN

→ *Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, 600 I St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$20; 202-408-3100. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*

## Beltway Melody

The Kennedy Center has been offering free daily performances for 12 years now, and to celebrate, it's offering a free performance, but a great one! The festivities will include a parade of latter-day

Broadway luminaries, including baritone heartthrob Brian Stokes Mitchell, pictured, and the composers of "Grey Gardens," "Ragtime" and "Caroline, or Change." Free performances by Broadway stars and up-and-coming composers will continue throughout the coming week. F.Z.

→ *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sat., 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)*



# top stops WEEKEND



## Self-Help for The Ladies

Now that Hollywood is turning self-help books into movies, it's no wonder everyone wants to write one. Even comedians such as Steve Harvey are getting in on the game. Harvey is going to be signing copies of his new book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," at Borders in Largo on Friday. If you thought "He's Just Not That Into You" lacked bite, try something written by a professional funnyman. He may not really know that much about relationships, but, really, who does? TAHIRA HAIRSTON

→ *Borders, 931 Capital Centre Blvd., Largo; Fri., 7 p.m., free; 301-499-2173.*

## dine&dash



## Take a Big Bite Out Of the Other Team

IT'S TWO DAYS UNTIL the Arizona Cardinals take on the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII. The grid sheets are ready, and the wing platters are ordered. Now what? Stop foaming at the mouth and do something with those chompers — aside from trash talking. Head out to these D.C.-area eateries where you can (symbolically, at least) chew up the competition.

Cardinals fans have it easy. Besides housing the Steelers, Pittsburgh is known for its pierogies. (The Pirates even have folks race in pierogi suits at games.) Russia House (1800 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-234-9433) serves an upscale take on the potato dumpling with smoked duck breast, applewood smoked bacon and caramelized onions (\$12). While Domku (821 Upshur St. NW; 202-722-7475) dishes more standard options, with cheese and bacon, or mushroom and sauerkraut (\$12).

Quelling the Steelers' ire? Not so simple. It was necessary to e-mail Glendale, Ariz.'s communications manager, Jennifer Stein, to find out the signature food of the Cardinals' hometown. "How about a red sauce (red for Cardinals) enchilada (for the Southwest)?" she offered. "And it has to have lots of heat." Noted. While U Street takeout spot El Paraiso (1916 14th St. NW; 202-986-9693) and Adams Morgan's El Tamarindo (1785 Florida Ave. NW; 202-328-3660) serve enchiladas with a red sauce, they're not too spicy. Both say you can request a more fiery version. Score! KRIS CORONADO (EXPRESS)





# Television

## ON TV THIS WEEKEND

### SPORTS FANS

Super Bowl weekend begins early with a pigskin-themed episode of **MONK** (9 p.m., USA, Fri.). The precinct house has playoff fever, a contagion not shared by the finicky detective. But he shocks the crew when he announces casually that he has press-box tickets, courtesy of announcer Bob Costas, who guest-stars as himself — or, rather, a cat-obsessed version of himself. A football stadium is the perfect venue to show off Adrian's aversion to the irrational enthusiasm and drunker and huggier aspects of male bonding. And leave it to Monk to discover a crime scene and a cover-up on the outskirts of the gridiron action.

### IMAGINARY FRIENDS, REAL FUN

Some years back, "The Simpsons" featured a gory spoof video called

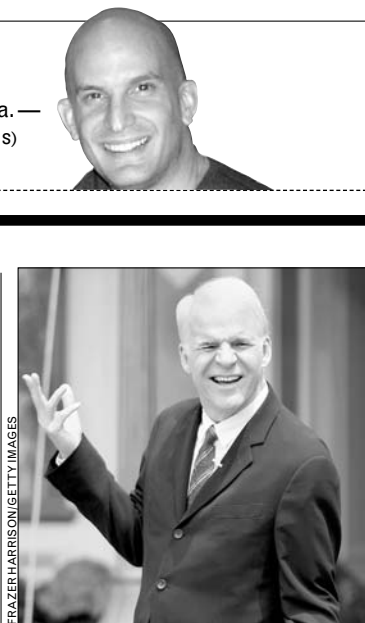


GENE J. PUSKARI/AP

**MAKE THE CALL:** Steelers Chris Kemoeatu and Ben Roethlisberger prep for Sunday.

"Football's Greatest Injuries." Proof that one man's parody is another's programming inspiration can be found on **ADRENALINE RUSH HOUR** (9 p.m., Discovery, Fri.), a 60-minute collection of gasp-inducing footage of explosions and

**CHEAP DATE:** Leon Logothetis, the star of "Amazing Adventures of a Nobody" (Fox Reality), is promoting his show by trying to travel from Atlanta to Tampa, Fla. — the site of the Super Bowl — in five days on \$5 a day. He started Tuesday. (EXPRESS)



FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

**OUR FAVORITE JERK:** Steve Martin hosts "SNL" for a record 15th time.

### ANYTHING BUT SUPER

An entrepreneurial mother thrives in the erotic-toy business in **MOTHER KNOWS SEX** (10 p.m., TLC, Sun.).

### BEAUTY AND THE BLACK

Jessica Alba and Jack Black appear on the special post-Super Bowl episode of **THE OFFICE** (10:30 p.m., NBC, Sun.). (KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE))

### ANYTHING FOR FOOD

Three thousand dogs compete for best in show on the **AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB/EUKANUBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** (8 p.m., Animal Planet, Sat.).

### PRODUCT OF SOCIETY

Viewers choose their favorite commercials from Super Bowls past on **SUPER BOWL'S GREATEST COMMERCIALS 2009** (8 p.m., CBS, Sat.). Jim Nantz and Daisy Fuentes host.

### FIRE AND ICE

An Alaskan village contends with an enraged dragon in the 2009 made-for-TV shocker **WYVERN** (9 p.m., Sci Fi, Sat.).

### WILD AND CRAZY GUY

Steve Martin hosts **SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE** (11:30 p.m., NBC, Sat.), featuring musical guest Jason Mraz.

### THE MAIN EVENT

The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals meet in Tampa Bay, Fla., in **SUPER BOWL XLIII** (6 p.m., NBC, Sun.).

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Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

TAKEN (PG-13) (1200 230 500) 730 1000 1220

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1130 200 445) 745 1015

SLUDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 345) 645 945

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 245 515) 800 1035

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 145 430) 715 1000 1215

INKHEART (PG) (1215 PM 315 PM) 615 PM

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1100 110 330) 600 815 1030

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1100 115 330) 600 815 1030

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 400) 715 1030

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1145 300 530) 815 1045

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 745 1045

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (330) 630 930 1210

OC: GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 PM)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (100 PM 445 PM) 830 PM

BRIDE WARS (PG) (915 PM 1145 PM)

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14

20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

TAKEN (PG-13) (1230 200 300 430 530) 730 830 950 1045

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (1230 245 515) 750 1000

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (130 445) 745 1015

MILK (R) - ID REQ'D (410 PM) 710 PM

FROST NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (110 PM) 1010 PM

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (120 420) 720 1030

SLUDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 700 1000

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (345 PM) 645 PM 940 PM

OC: GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 PM)

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (115 215 415 520) 715 815 945 1040

INKHEART (PG) (1240 PM 340 PM) 640 PM

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (320 PM) 930 PM

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (145 440) 740 1020

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (915 PM)

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1250 PM 330 PM) 630 PM

BRIDE WARS (PG) (100 PM) 650 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) 900 PM

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14

9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (200 500) 735 1015

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (220 520) 800 1020

TAKEN (PG-13) (210 510) 745 1010

INKHEART (PG) (120 PM 350 PM) 645 PM

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (230 530) 815 1025

OC: PAUL BLART - MALL COP (PG) (150 PM)

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (105 405) 705 1000

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (430 PM) 730 PM 945 PM

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (100 PM) 630 PM

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (630 PM) 930 PM

BRIDE WARS (PG) 910 PM

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) - ID REQ'D (145 450) 750 1030

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (140 420) 650 940

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (110 PM 440 PM) 810 PM

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (130 400) 645 920

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (125 415) 715 1005

SLUDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 340) 700 950

### MAJESTIC STADIUM 20

900 Ellsworth Dr. Silver Spring, MD 240-393-4826

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

TAKEN (PG-13) (140 350) 615 830 1045

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1215 235 450) 720 935

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (1230 245 515) 730 945

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1240 300 525) 750 1010

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 240 505) 740 1005

FW: UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (115 335) 605 820 1040

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (1205 330) 700 1030

INKHEART (PG) (255 640) 815 1035

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (135 425) 655 940

THE READER (R) - ID REQ'D (110 PM 355 PM) 650 PM

MILK (R) - ID REQ'D (120 410) 705 955

DOUBT (PG-13) (1020 PM)

INKHEART (PG) (1200 225 500) 745

MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R) - ID REQ'D (345) 610 840 1105

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (220 510) 800 1050

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (100 340) 620 845 1100

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 400) 725 1035

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (155 420) 710 930

THE UNBORN (PG-13) 950 PM

BRIDE WARS (PG) (250 PM 820 PM) 735 PM

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (1235 PM) 1015 PM 1235 AM

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (130 405) 635 905

VALENTINE (PG-13) (1210 PM)

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (105 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (145 430) 715 1000

ROYALE STADIUM 14

6505 America Blvd. Hyattsville, MD 301-864-3456

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

TAKEN (PG-13) (1200 230 450) 705 930

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1230 300 520) 735 1010

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (1255 350) 755 1015

INKHEART (PG) (1235 250 500) 715 950

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 245 515) 750

FW: PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1220 1250 240 320 510) 700 740 925 1005

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 420) 725 1025

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1205 225 445) 710

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (100 330) 745 1030

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) 940 PM

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 400) 655 955

FROST NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (1020 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (105 415) 730 1010

SLUDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 340) 650 945

BETHESDA 10

7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 568#

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1200 220 440) 700 920

TAKEN (PG-13) (1230 300 520) 750 1010

INKHEART (PG) (130 PM 400 PM) 630 PM

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 240 510) 740 1010

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (115 330 545) 800 1015

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (120 420) 720 1020

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (140 400) 640 900

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1220 PM) 950 PM

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1250 510 530) 810 1035

VALENTINE (PG-13) 900 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (1200 320) 650 1015

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (245 PM) 710 PM

BOWIE STADIUM 14

15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

TAKEN (PG-13) (1100 130 400) 645 915

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (100 315 545) 815 1030

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1100 1230 115 245 330 500 545) 715 800 1000 1045

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 1245 130 315 400 530) 615 745 830 1000 1045

INKHEART (PG) (1130 200 430) 700

SLUDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 150 410) 700 920

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 330) 630 945

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1215 245 500) 715 930

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1230 300 530) 800 1030

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1130 200 430) 700

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1245 330) 630 945

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (1200 230 515) 745 1030

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 145 445) 730 1015

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) 930 PM

### GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14

701 Seventh St. NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#

Adv. Tix on Sale FRIDAY THE 13TH

TAKEN (PG-13) (1200 100 230) 400 500 630 730 900 1000 1215

NEW IN TOWN (PG-13) (1150 215) 445 715 945 1210

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (1215 245) 515 745 1015 1230

OC: GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 AM) 430 PM 930 PM

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 230 300) 450 530 800 930 1030 1220

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1245) 410 710 1010

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1220 235) 445 720 940 1155

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1235) 350 655 1005

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1155 220 510) 745 1020 1240

BRIDE WARS (PG) (210 PM) 700 PM 1205 AM

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (225 PM) 705 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (140 PM) 615 PM 950 PM

OC: GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (340 640 920 1200

FROST NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (110) 445 735 1025

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (1140 PM)

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12

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**IMAX THE DARK KNIGHT: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**  
(11:30 @ \$9), 2:45

**DIGITAL 3D**  
**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** (11:25 @ \$8), 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:40, 12:10

**DIGITAL PRESENTATION**  
**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 6:10, 8:35, 11:00  
**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** (10:00 @ \$6), 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50, 12:15  
**TAKEN (PG13)** (10:00 @ \$6), 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05, 12:30  
**THE UNINVITED (PG13)** ✓ (10:15 @ \$6), 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30, 12:35  
**INKHEART (PG)** (11:15 @ \$6), 1:55, 4:30, 7:10  
**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** (10:10, 11:20 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:45, 9:10, 10:10, 11:35, 12:15  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** (10:30 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05  
**NOTORIOUS (R)** (10:25 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45  
**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** (10:35 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:10, 12:25  
**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG13)** (11:40 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10  
**THE UNBORN (PG13)** 8:10, 10:30, 12:25  
**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)** (10:05 @ \$6), 12:35, 3:10, 5:40  
**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** (11:10 @ \$6), 2:50, 6:30, 10:15  
**MARLEY & ME (PG)** (11:35 AM @ \$6)  
**VALKYRIE (PG13)** 9:50 PM

**AMC SELECT**  
**MILK (R)** (10:20 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00  
**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** (10:50 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** (10:20 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00  
**THE WRESTLER (R)** 12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35  
**DEFIANCE (R)** 12:00, 3:05, 6:15, 9:15  
**DEFIANCE (R)** 12:00, 3:05, 6:15, 9:15  
**LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG13)** 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55  
**GRAN TORINO (R)** (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20  
**THE READER (R)** 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30

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**IMAX THE DARK KNIGHT: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**  
(11:20 @ \$9), 2:45

**DIGITAL 3D**  
**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** (10:00 @ \$8), 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:50

**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** (11:40 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50  
**TAKEN (PG13)** (10:30 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45  
**THE UNINVITED (PG13)** (10:10 @ \$6), 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55  
**INKHEART (PG)** (11:10 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:30, 7:15  
**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** (10:15 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:30  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15  
**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** (9:55 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10  
**BRIDE WARS (PG)** (11:30 @ \$6), 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40  
**THE UNBORN (PG13)** 10:05 PM  
**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 6:45, 10:20

**AMC SELECT**  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** (10:25 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00  
**DEFIANCE (R)** (10:05 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:15, 7:30, 10:35  
**GRAN TORINO (R)** (10:50 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15

**LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14**  
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202-342-6441

**DIGITAL 3D**  
**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** ✓ 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05  
**TAKEN (PG13)** ✓ 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10  
**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** ✓ 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30  
**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25  
**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 3:00, 6:40, 10:20  
**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 3:00, 6:40, 10:20  
**AMC SELECT**  
**FROST/NIXON (R)** 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45  
**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45  
**THE WRESTLER (R)** 12:05, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00  
**DEFIANCE (R)** 1:05, 4:20, 7:20, 10:35  
**LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG13)** 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55  
**GRAN TORINO (R)** 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50  
**THE READER (R)** 7:10, 10:00  
**DOUBT (PG13)** 1:35, 4:15

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**THE UNINVITED (PG-13)**  
(!)11:10, 1:25, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 10:10  
**TAKEN (PG-13)**  
(!)11:20, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:50, 10:10  
**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)**  
(!)11:10, 1:25, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 10:00  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
(!)11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10  
**NOTORIOUS (R)**  
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00  
**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)**  
11:20, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:50, 10:10, 12:35  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)**  
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20  
**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13)**  
11:30, 2:10  
**MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R)**  
5:00, 7:35, 10:20

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**MILK (R)**  
1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05  
**THE READER (R)**  
1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35  
**WALTZ WITH BASHIR (R)**  
1:15, 3:25, 5:45, 8:00  
**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
1:05, 9:55  
**GRAN TORINO (R)**  
1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00  
**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)**  
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10  
**FROST/NIXON (R)**  
3:30, 6:30, 9:15  
**THE WRESTLER (R)**  
1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15

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**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)**  
3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)**  
3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:30  
**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:40

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**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)**  
12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50, 10:45  
**TAKEN (PG-13)**  
12:25, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:15  
**THE UNINVITED (PG-13)**  
12:30, 2:30, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25, 10:20  
**NOTORIOUS (R)**  
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30  
**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13)**  
11:45, 1:50, 4:00, 8:00  
**MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R)**  
6:05, 10:00  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)**  
12:10, 2:15, 4:15, 6:30, 8:40, 10:40

**P&G OLD GREENBELT** 301-474-9744  
40 ft. Screen  
At intersection of Crescent & Southway  
All shows before 6:00pm are \$6.00  
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**

**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
5:00, 7:30, 9:40

**VIRGINIA**

**CINEMA ARTS THEATRE**

9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991  
**www.cinemaartstheatre.com**

**THE WRESTLER (R)**  
9:55, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 8:00, 10:15  
**DEFIANCE (R)**  
10:10, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 9:50  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
9:45, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:45  
**THE READER (R)**  
9:50, 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10  
**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
10:00, 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20  
**FROST/NIXON (R)**  
9:40, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05

**PHOENIX THEATRES**  
**WORLDGATE 9**

Exit 10, Dulles Access Toll Road  
Centreville Rd., Herndon 703-318-9290  
Bargain Matinees Daily before 6  
Advance Ticketing Available at

**www.PhoenixTheatres.com**  
Bargain Tuesday - \$5 admission!

**TAKEN (PG-13)**  
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40  
**THE UNINVITED (PG-13)**  
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
12:30, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35  
**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)**  
11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30  
**INKHEART (PG)**  
12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35  
**ARUNDHATI (NR)**  
11:50, 2:50, 6:50, 10:00  
**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)**  
12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45  
**GRAN TORINO (R)**  
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)**  
11:30, 2:00, 4:30  
**FROST/NIXON (R)**  
7:00, 9:55  
**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
10:05

**ALEXANDRIA** **www.oldtowntheater.com**

815 1/2 King Street 703-683-8888  
Fine Dining Beer & Wine  
**GRAN TORINO (R)**  
5:25, 7:45, 10:00  
**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)**  
5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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(!) SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT/ NO PASSES / NO DISCOUNT CARDS

**CHE (R)**  
(!) 1:00, 7:00  
**DOUBT (PG-13)**  
12:30, 4:00  
**THE WRESTLER (R)**  
1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05  
**MILK (R)**  
1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55  
**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)**  
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15  
**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)**  
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45  
**THE READER (R)**  
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50  
**WALTZ WITH BASHIR (R)**  
2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00  
**WENDY & LUCY (R)**  
12:15, 2:10, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

**PHOENIX THEATRES**  
**UNION STATION 9**

Metro's Red Line  
**202-842-4455**

Bargain Matinees Daily Before 4  
Advance Ticketing Available at  
**www.PhoenixTheatres.com**

\* No Passes

**\*TAKEN (PG-13)**  
11:35, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 9:50  
**\*THE UNINVITED (PG-13)**  
11:50, 2:10, 4:20, 7:15, 9:35  
**\*LUCKY BY CHANCE (NR)**  
11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:15  
**\*UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)**  
11:55, 2:40, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55  
**\*INKHEART (PG)**  
12:00, 2:25, 4:40, 7:30  
**\*FROST/NIXON (R)**  
10:05  
**\*MY BLOODY VALENTINE 2D (R)**  
10:00  
**NOTORIOUS (R)**  
11:30, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20  
**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)**  
12:05, 2:05, 4:25, 7:00, 9:15  
**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)**  
11:40, 2:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30  
**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13)**  
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25



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**Information Session**

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Information: <http://mcs.georgetown.edu>

Times for Friday, January 30, 2009



# If You Don't Have To Pay It Back, It's Actually **FREE** Money!

**Learn About FREE-MONEY Grants, Low-Interest Loans & Government Subsidies To Buy a Home! To Start or Expand a Business! To Invest in Real Estate!**

**D**id you know that the government gives away billions of dollars to eligible individuals in the form of free-money grants, low interest loans and subsidies to buy their first home, to start or expand a business, or invest in real estate? Would you like to learn how to qualify to receive a share of this multi-billion dollar give-away?

The U.S. Congress has budgeted billions of dollars in Federal Grants-In-Aid for this year, and more money is available today than ever before. There are more than 30 federal agencies that distribute this money through 15,000+ programs at the federal, state and local level. This is opportunity money designed to stimulate the economy and empower people to help themselves.

According to Tomas Bilbao, Former Deputy Director of Operations for the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD): *"...these government grants allow people to go from being renters to homeowners, from being employees to employers. Thousands of people take advantage of these grants every year. The money is there and it's available."*

So, are you ready to learn what it takes to be eligible for this money? Are you willing to learn how to give the government what it wants in order to qualify and get what you want?

## By National Grants Conferences

Local Introductory Conferences will be sponsored by National Grants Conferences (NGC) this coming week in your area. NGC maintains a terrific team of over 150 employees, instructors and trainers to serve your needs.

With offices in Boca Raton, Florida, and a research team and customer support center in

Rochester, New York, NGC has been teaching people how to access the government grant, loan, and subsidy system since 1998. Discover how you can too by making plans to attend a Conference near you (see below). Admission is free, seating is limited and reservations are required.

## Buy Your First Home

The hottest news in almost every small and large city in the country is that there is a ton of money now available through many programs that provide grants and subsidized loans to help families buy their first home. If you qualify, you can use this money for a down payment to buy your first home, up to \$50,000 in some areas.

At the same time you might be able to apply for a free money grant to fix up your purchase and follow it up with a government subsidized mortgage to make your monthly payments truly affordable.

According to Oscar Anderson, former Deputy Chief of Staff for HUD and co-author of the nation's most successful initiative to promote homeownership, *"the American Dream Down Payment Program has put tens of thousands of people in homes with no money down - fully funded by the government. National Grants makes the money very real and accessible."*

## Invest In Real Estate

For the real estate investors, the government has money to revitalize the communities in big cities and rural communities. Redevelopment areas historically have the greatest rate of appreciation. So, if you truly want a great chance of becoming wealthy, invest in redevelopment areas. You can make more money when the markets are bad or moving sideways than in up real estate markets

because that's when you can buy bargain properties.

In some markets real estate prices are going down and foreclosures are at an all-time record high. The government has programs allowing you to take advantage of these opportunities as well.

## Start Or Expand Your Own Business

Nike, Fed Ex, Intel, Ben & Jerry's, Quiznos, Jenny Craig and Columbia Sportswear (to name just a few!) all started with government subsidized loans from the SBA (Small Business Administration). The SBA has been told to get the billions allocated this year for business development pumped back into the economy.

The result? Funding programs for business start-up and expansion are at an all-time high. Billions of dollars have been distributed to eligible individuals through programs offering astonishingly favorable low-interest loan terms, as well as lucrative government subsidies (e.g., equipment & training grants) and government contracting opportunities, with mandatory set-asides for groups and areas specifically targeted for growth. And the best part? More money is available now than ever before! But knowing how to access these dollars is the key.

*"It's tough to navigate through the federal government,"* says former SBA Deputy Administrator, Melanie Sablehaus. *"NGC can open doors for you; they can help you think big and bold and show you how to do business with the U.S. Government. All you have to do is find your way to a local conference so you can understand what to do and how to get it done."*

Call now to attend this local Introductory Conference. All attendees will receive a

**Table 421. Federal Grants-in-Aid to State and Local Governments: 1990 to 2006**

(\$135,325 represents \$135,325,000,000 except as indicated.) For fiscal year ending in year shown.

Year	Total Grants (million dollars)	Annual Percent Change '1	Grants to Individuals	
			Total (million dollars)	Percent of total grants
1990	135,325	11.0	77,264	57.1
1991	154,519	14.2	92,865	60.1
1992	178,065	15.2	112,522	63.2
1993	193,812	8.7	124,155	64.1
1994	210,596	8.8	134,153	63.7
1995	224,991	6.8	144,427	64.2
1996	227,811	1.3	146,493	64.3
1997	234,160	2.8	146,236	63.3
1998	246,128	5.1	160,305	65.1
1999	267,081	8.5	172,384	64.5
2000	284,659	6.6	182,592	64.1
2001	317,211	11.4	203,920	64.3
2002	351,550	10.8	227,370	64.7
2003	387,366	10.2	246,570	63.7
2004	406,330	4.9	262,177	64.5
2005	426,243	4.9	273,464	64.2
2006, estimate	440,277	3.4	287,634	64.0

FOOTNOTE: 1) Average annual percent change from prior year shown. For explanation, see Guide to Tables. Presentation: For 1990, change from 1989. A large percentage of this money goes to Medicaid and Welfare programs. Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget, based on Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, annual. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy00/pd.html>. INTERNET LINK: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>

3 volume mini-home study course at the end of the conference, which includes these valuable publications:

- Jumpstart Your Business With Government Money
- Fortunes in Foreclosures
- Success With Government Contracts

The information in these free books could be worth thousands of dollars to you, your business and your family members.

## Don't Wait! CALL TODAY!

Listen to the information provided at this introductory conference, further participation is optional. You'll learn about different ways you can take advantage of the unique programs Federal, state and local governments offer. Call now. Seating is limited.

## Limited Seating – FREE Admission!

Seize this opportunity now! Come to an Introductory Conference. Get your questions answered. Put a plan in place, execute and achieve your American dream! ■

## THESE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS!



\*The results shown in the testimonials presented are limited to the individual experiences represented and are not typical. They are presented for the limited purpose of demonstrating that government grant, loan and subsidy programs exist for particular purposes and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. Availability, terms, and amounts of grants and loans vary. You must meet program eligibility requirements to qualify. Individual performance depends upon the skill, time availability, and dedication of each participant. NGC customers who provide testimonials may receive rebates and/or prizes as rewards for sharing their stories regarding their success with NGC's products and services.

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9:00am or 3:00pm  
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 left on Army Navy Dr.)

### • SUN., FEB. 1ST

9:00am or 3:00pm  
**Marriott Greenbelt Hotel**  
 6400 Ivy Lane  
 Greenbelt, MD 20770  
 (Between Kenilworth Ave.  
 & Ivy Lane)

### • MON., FEB. 2ND

1:00pm or 7:00pm  
**Hilton Washington Embassy Row**  
 2015 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 (On Massachusetts Ave. & 20th St.)

### • TUE., FEB. 3RD

1:00pm or 7:00pm  
**Hilton Alexandria Mark Center**  
 5000 Seminary Road  
 Alexandria, VA 22311  
 (Route 395 to exit 4 West)



If the number is busy, please try again.

(Additional materials will be offered for sale at this Introductory Conference.)



## Classifieds

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Automotive

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## Dental

### Dental Assistant

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## HOTEL

### Catering Sales Manager

The University Club of Washington, DC has an immediate opening for an experienced Catering Sales Manager. Requirements: must be accurate with careful attention to detail, utilize proven sales techniques to attract and retain business, adjust readily to changing priorities, be articulate and creative, possess excellent written communication skills, be accurate with careful attention to detail. Previous high-end sales, hotel, restaurant or private clubs experience is a plus.

The ideal candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience, familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets. Excellent Benefit Package and Salary.

Interested candidates should e-mail or fax resume with salary requirements & history to Human Resources at [resume@universityclubdc.com](mailto:resume@universityclubdc.com) or (202)296-2347.

## HVAC

### A/C Equipment Mechanic

The National Gallery of Art is seeking an experienced A/C Equipment Mechanic to operate, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair its HVAC&R building mechanical equipment and systems. The position requires heavy physical effort and the ability to take operational readings from HVAC equipment. Secure government job with great benefits. Salary range \$24.72 - 28.87, hourly. Call Mr. Bixler at 202-842-6350 for more information. U.S. citizenship is required. For application information and instructions go to <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/a9nga.asp>. The vacancy announcement numbers are 09-2A and 09-2B. Applications will be accepted through 2/13/09. EOE.

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- conduct business intelligence research and in-depth analysis on program data, perform trend analysis, etc. and develop statistical models;
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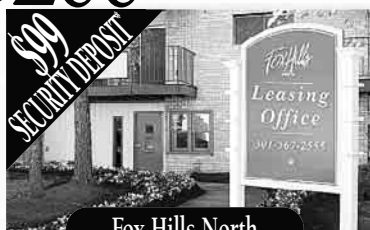
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NW— 9th & Kennedy St. - 1 lrg rm, \$550/mo, shr hse, bus, nr Metro. Cable & utls incl'd. 202-722-2257

Olney—\$600, SF, basement with wet bar, 1 ba, Olney, MD, util included, must like dogs 301-260-8784

SIL SPG Prof to shr Wonderful hse Wlk Metro. BR/BA: \$695, \$555, \$499-. N/S, N/P. Utils incl. 301-593-2435

SIL SPG— Shr SFH. 1 rm in bsmt, walk-in clst, priv ba, great neighb. priv entrance & pkg. \$800 incl utils. Call 301-787-0842 or 301-933-0178

Silver Spring-1rm avl now \$460 Shr ba w/ 1 Kit +1/5 utils. Nr bltvy/Metro/bus 1/2 sec dep. 301-675-4348

Springfield- Female caregiver to shr apt. Furn MBR, prvt BA, TV, telephone. \$500. Blks to bus/Metro. Across from Mall. 703-922-7746 btwn 4pm-7:30

Springfield—TH to shr, bsmt w/ priv bath/fridge. Females only. \$600 incl utils. 5 mins. from Metro. No pets/smoking. Available now. 202-302-5338

SPRINGFIELD nr Metro — Shr 2BR, 2BA, no pets, no smkg, M/F, \$680/m incl all utils. 571-275-3561.

Takoma Park—F. Shar hse quiet neighborhood close to shops/trans, n/sm.k. \$500cllud utl 301-717-9057

UPPER MARLBORO Prof F shr N/S TH. Rm in bsmt. Pvt entr/BA, refrig, CATV, \$750/mo. 301-627-2359

WOODBIDGE—Room in TH to Share, \$480+.  
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703-719-0127 or 703-772-2063

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Deluxe effcy.... \$134,950  
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DC FIRST TIME BUYER. New tax credit up to \$7,500. 24/7 Hotline Urban Suburban RE 240-447-2740

LAUREL—\$170,500. 3-lvl. 3BR 2.5BA TH, Catherine Holroyd, Exit Premier Realty 301-560-6700 202-391-2347

LAUREL—\$185,000 3-lvl. 3BR 2 FB, Edward Cunningham Exit Premier Realty 301-669-0063, 301-560-6700

STOP PAYING RENT—Grants up to \$15K. \$40K income All credit considered Larry 240-381-1641

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# LOOK out

\*TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

## Marketing

### Hidden cameras help high-tech ads tailor messages to viewers

Watch an advertisement on a video screen in a mall, health club or grocery store and there's a slim — but growing — chance the ad is watching you, too.

Small cameras can now be embedded in the screen or hidden around it, tracking who looks at the screen and for how long. The makers of the tracking systems say the software can determine the viewer's gender, approximate age range and, in some cases, ethnicity — and can change the ads accordingly.

That could mean razor ads for men, cosmetics ads for women and video-game ads for teens.

And even if the ads don't shift based on who is watching, the technology's ability to determine the viewers' demographics is golden for advertisers who want to know how effectively they're reaching their target audience.

**“This is proactive merchandising. You're targeting people with smart ads.”**

**VICKI RABENOU,**  
TRUMEDIA TECHNOLOGIES INC.

While the technology remains in limited use for now, advertising industry analysts say it is finally beginning to live up to its promise. The manufacturers say their systems can accurately determine gender 85 to 90 percent of the time, while accuracy for the other measures continues to be refined.

The concept is reminiscent of

the science-fiction movie “Minority Report,” in which Tom Cruise's character enters a mall and finds that retinal scanners identify him and prompt personalized ads that greet him by name.

But this technology doesn't go nearly that far. It doesn't identify people individually — it simply categorizes them by outward appearances.

So, a video screen might show a motorcycle ad for a group of men, but switch to a minivan ad when women and children join them, said Vicki Rabenou, the chief measurement officer of Tampa, Fla.-based TruMedia Technologies Inc., one of the leaders in developing the technology.

“This is proactive merchandising,” Rabenou said. “You're targeting people with smart ads.”

Because the tracking industry is still in its infancy, there isn't yet consensus on how to refer to the technology. Some call it face reading, face counting, gaze tracking or, more generally, face-based audience measurement.

Whatever it's called, advertisers are finally ready to try it, said advertising consultant Jack Sullivan, a senior vice president of Starcom USA in Chicago. “I think you're going to see a lot of movement toward it by the end of this year in the top 10 markets,” he said.

Because face tracking might feel reminiscent of Big Brother, manufacturers are racing to offer reassurances. When the systems capture an image of who's watching the screen, a computer instantly analyzes it. The systems' manufacturers insist, however, that nothing is ever stored.

The idea still worries Lee Tien,

INSIDE

Hasselbeck pregnant with third child | 30



**Blog Log:** Marion Barry has more tax issues | 28

**Discussions:** Norman Chad on Super Bowl | 28



**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** People shop near a sign that uses new technology to target its ads to consumers in Winston-Salem, N.C.

# They're Watching You



A small camera atop a high-tech advertising sign tracks viewers to customize ads.

a senior staff attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil-liberties group in San Francisco. Tien argues that cameras that study people contribute to an erosion of privacy.

In general, the tracking systems work like this: A sensor or camera in or near the screen identifies viewers' faces by picking up shapes, colors and the relative speed of movement.

The companies say their systems have become adept at determining a viewer's gender, but age is trickier: The software can categorize age only in broad ranges. There's moderate demand for ads based on ethnic information, but determining ethnicity is more challenging than figuring out gender and age range.

Still, “even if it gets to 70 percent accuracy, that's still giving you a wealth of information,” said Deborah Mitchell, a professor of consumer psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. DINESH RAMDE (AP)



# LOOK out Online

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## FOOD & DRINK

### Dynamic Duo

Gina Chersevani left the Arlington restaurant Tallula at the beginning of this year to join PS7. Chef-owner Peter Smith is an old friend of Chersevani's, and now their partnership is adding a new dynamic to the contemporary-American Chinatown restaurant. Suemedha Sood reports. | COMING UP



## SOUND BETS

### Song Remains the Same

Join us for an online screening of the 2004 documentary "A to Zeppelin: The Unauthorized Story of Led Zeppelin," courtesy of SnagFilms. While there are no interviews with the band (that's the unauthorized part), there are plenty of interesting talking heads blabbing about Robert Plant and co. | ONLINE NOW

## BAGGAGE CHECK

### Super Brutality

Dr. Andrea Bonior doesn't want to spoil anyone's Super Bowl fun, but she writes that recent research regarding the amount of brain damage suffered by professional football players has been downright alarming. Go to her Baggage Check blog to get the lowdown. | ONLINE NOW



## poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

### WOULD IT BOTHER YOU IF THE POST OFFICE CUT MAIL DELIVERIES TO FIVE DAYS A WEEK?

**NO** 69%

**YES** 31%



**"Not at all."** Why, with one less day of delivery, J. Crew can reduce the number of catalogs it sends me each week from six to five."

**COMMENTER DIOGENES**, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "WOULD IT BOTHER YOU IF THE POST OFFICE CUT MAIL DELIVERIES TO FIVE DAYS A WEEK?"

**“Why shouldn't**

mail carriers get an actual weekend? Maybe that is why they call it 'going postal.' Working too many hours can drive anyone insane."

**COMMENTER COMMON KEVIN**, WHO ADDED, "BESIDES, 90 PERCENT OF MY MAIL IS JUNK MAIL, AND THE OTHER 10 PERCENT IS BILLS."

**“Since the**

Postal Service does not receive taxpayer dollars and must cover its expenses with revenue, it must be allowed the opportunity to lower its expenses."

**COMMENTER JEV**, WHO ADDED, "IN THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS, WE MUST REVIEW ALL AREAS TO SEE WHERE COSTS CAN BE SAVED."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER](http://EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER)

## Blog LOG

"I'm actually OK with 'tramp stamps.' No, really, I am. I think there's something sexy about them that I just can't explain."

**BRIANKAINEC.COM** REGRETS GETTING A TATTOO BUT LIKES THOSE THAT MANY WOMEN GET ON THE LOWER BACK, ADDING, "MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A PRODUCT OF THE '90S."



GERALD MARTINEAU/TWP

**"Since when is not filing your taxes a problem? The newly confirmed secretary of the Treasury didn't bother [either]."**

A **WASHINGTONPOST.COM** COMMENTER DOESN'T HOLD D.C. COUNCIL MEMBER MARION BARRY'S LATEST TAX ISSUES AGAINST HIM, ADDING, "MAYBE THIS SIGNALS A PLAN [TO GET] BACK IN OFFICE."



**"It's impossible for me to believe that the differences are so great that after a number of significant concessions, no Republicans in the House voted for the stimulus package. The approach appears to be a vindictive one."**

**BLOG.ALTHIPPO.COM** THINKS HOUSE REPUBLICANS ACTED IN AN ADOLESCENT MANNER IN OPPOSING OBAMA'S STIMULUS BILL.

**"ON WEDNESDAY, I FELL** on the ice on my way to work. Not a pick-yourself-up, whoopsie-daisy kind of fall. We're talking epic, cringe-worthy, something you might see on an episode of 'America's Funniest Home Videos.'"

**PLIGHTOFTHEPUMPERNICKEL.BLOGSPOT.COM** IS STILL FEELING THE EFFECTS FROM AN EPIC SPILL IN THE BAD CONDITIONS.

## Discussions

### The Couch Slouch

**NORMAN CHAD**, the Couch Slouch, was online Thursday and discussed why he has adopted the Arizona Cardinals as his team of destiny, and his latest columns and the hype around the Super Bowl.

**I don't believe you're really rooting for the Cardinals. The fact that you endorsed Rolling Rock, which was made in Latrobe, Pa., which happens to be the home of the Steelers training camp, can't be a coincidence. People like you (blue-collar-looking, beer-drinking, card-playing) don't root for the Arizona Cardinals; they root for a team like the Pittsburgh Steelers.**

Understand this — the Steelers are my favorite sports franchise of all

time. Three of their current players — Ben Roethlisberger, Troy Polamalu and Hines Ward — are among my favorite players of all time. And I will be thrilled if the Steelers win on Sunday. But am I supposed to dump my team of destiny on the mother of all destiny days? What are you, nuts?

**Do you think this Super Bowl is a matchup of the smallest markets among NFL cities? The suits must be hating this. I think the only combination that would be worse for them would be a Buffalo-Green Bay matchup. Let the good times roll.** I don't think the Super Bowl matchup ever makes much of a difference, viewer-wise. What — if it were Titans-Vikings, everyone would tune in to Lifetime TV for "The Patty Duke Story"? Everyone watches the Super Bowl. You cannot walk into a bar, restaurant or hotel

anywhere in America without TVs tuned to the Super Bowl.

**Why is Arizona the "Cardinals" while Stanford is the "Cardinal"?** Arizona is a large state. Palo Alto is a small community.

**With the game, commercials and Bruce as the halftime show, when is a guy supposed to pee? How can I convince my wife to allow me to use that container they gave me in the hospital?**

I bought a 9-inch, black-and-white TV at Rodman's in 1982 (for \$49) and placed it in my apartment's men's restroom to solve this very problem.

**TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS:** Security Fix blogger Brian Krebs answers your questions about the latest computer security threats and offers ways to protect your personal information at 11 a.m. | [washingtonpost.com/discussions](http://washingtonpost.com/discussions).



### Bizarro | Dan Piraro

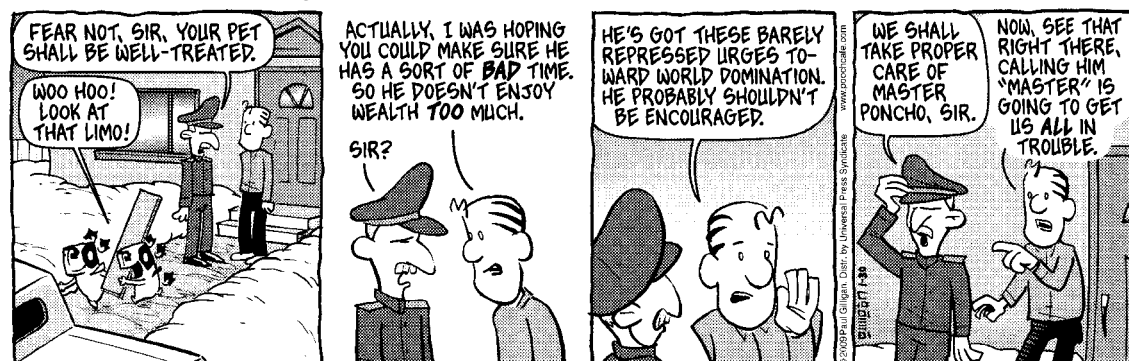


### Cornered | Mike Baldwin



"Don't worry, I didn't tell them anything they didn't already suspect."

### Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



### Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



### The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



## Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Know who you're up against before coming up with a plan of action. Different adversaries require different strategies.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** You can prove yourself once again, but only by showing off your trademark approach — steady, dedicated and detail-oriented.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Your views may differ dramatically from another's, but you can still work together and win the day. Set aside differences for now.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Waste no time as you go for the gold — and don't let anyone else waste it, either. Insist that others toe the line.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** It may fall to you to decide between two conflicting ideologies. Use care, and avoid being critical; the decision is a simple one.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Assumptions made are likely to become missteps

tomorrow. You'll want to be sure that what you have at your fingertips is the facts.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** You may feel as though you are alone in your current fight, but there are many others on your side and ready to come to your aid.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Don't let success go to your head. Remember that any victory is just one piece of a puzzle; a greater triumph awaits.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Doing something for someone else needn't involve a sacrifice on your part. You can benefit greatly from a moment of selflessness.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Others may be blowing their own horns, but you want your actions to speak louder than any words — and they can.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Heartache is not something you can avoid altogether, but you can reduce its long-term impact by answering why.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** What matters most to you may not be of great significance to another. You can learn a great deal about living with adversity.

## Letters

### Another Excuse for Israel

**A STORY IN THURSDAY'S** Express ("Envoy Urges Extended Gaza Truce") said Israel is threatening more violence for the use of the tunnels between Gaza and Egypt. One of your stories a couple weeks

ago said these tunnels are actually mainly used to bring food and medical supplies into Gaza. It's unrealistic for Israel to expect the Palestinians in Gaza to not use these tunnels when they have basically no other way to get supplies. It's just another excuse for Israel to continue its massacre on the Palestinians.

—DAVINA ABUJUDEH  
Alexandria, Va.

**WRITE TO EXPRESS:** Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to [inbox@readexpress.com](mailto:inbox@readexpress.com) or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

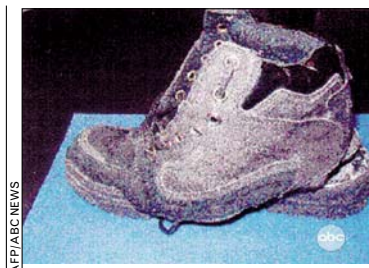
## Today in History

**1933** Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany.

**1948** Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi is fatally shot by a Hindu extremist.

**1962** Two members of the Flying Wallendas high-wire act are killed when their pyramid collapses at a performance in Detroit.

**1972** Thirteen Roman Catholic civil rights marchers are fatally shot by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."



One of Reid's explosives-laden shoes.

**2003** Richard Reid, the British citizen and al-Qaeda follower who tried to blow up a trans-Atlantic jetliner with explosives hidden in his shoes, is sentenced to life in prison.



LOOK

out

People



Clips-ons: Jen's secret past exposed.

HOLES

New Mother Takes Pleasure In Ritual Body Piercings

JENNIFER GARNER and her sister reportedly got their ears pierced at a Santa Monica medical center this week. There is no word on what the 36-year-old actress and wife of Ben Affleck will do with her collection of clip-ons. (EXPRESS)

HAUTE COUTURE

Radical Hemlines Raise Eyebrows at Area Gas-N-Sip

Country starlet TAYLOR SWIFT has launched a line of sundresses with jeans maker l.e.i. They'll be available at Wal-Mart stores nationwide starting Sunday. The 19-year-old chart-topper favors frocks. (AP)

expressnightout

→ Find the latest celebrity news and photo evidence of stars' sordid lives at WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM.



EXPECTING

GOP OKs Stimulus

ELISABETH HASSELBECK of "The View" and her husband, TIM, who played for the Arizona Cardinals, are about to be outnumbered. Hasselbeck announced Thursday on the ABC daytime chat show that she's pregnant with her third child, due in August. She said: "We are thankful for such great news and will begin planning our zone defense strategy immediately." (AP)

CHARTS

'Life' is Good

KELLY CLARKSON, the original "American Idol" clocked the largest jump for a single to the top slot in the Hot 100. Her single, "My Life Would Suck Without You," debuted at 97 and jumped to No. 1 in a week. With this move, the Texas native swipes the previous record, set this winter, from



Since U been AWOL, we've missed U, Kelly.

Britney Spears for "Womanizer." Clarkson can chalk up her big win to some outrageously good digital sales. In it's first week, "My Life" sold more than 280,000 downloads. Her new album, "All I Ever Wanted," will be released on March 17. (EXPRESS)

ECONOMY

Playboy Cancels Event, Shies Away From Layoffs

In response to a lack of sponsorship, Playboy magazine's HUGH HEFNER has been forced to cancel his annual Super Bowl party. Last year the 82-year-old publishing mogul hosted a lavish, \$2,000-a-head



bash headlined by rapper Common. This year, model Brande Roderick is hosting a viewing party at the famous Playboy mansion in L.A. Admission is a mere \$1,500 per person. (EXPRESS)

SIDELINED

'Harry Potter and the Everlasting Painkillers'

A terrifying moment occurred on the "Harry Potter" soundstages Wednesday as DANIEL RADCLIFFE's stuntman was hospitalized with back injuries after an on-set mishap. The injury occurred when the 25-year-old man fell during an aerial sequence on the London set. (AP)

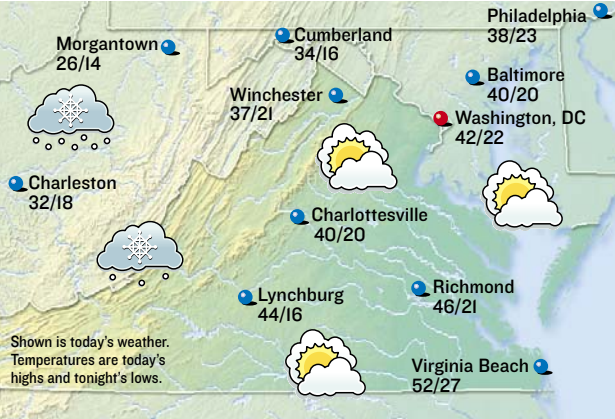


Radcliffe in costume as Harry Potter.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny	Mainly clear, chilly	Sunny, brisk	Sunny, not as cold	Mostly cloudy, rain possible	Cloudy with rain, snow possible
42°	22°	38° / 29°	51° / 36°	49° / 34°	39° / 22°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	37°
Low	27°
Normal high	43°
Normal low	27°
Average humidity	56%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.03"
Month to date	2.68"
Normal month to date	3.01"
Year to date	2.68"
Last year to date	1.36"
Normal year to date	3.01"

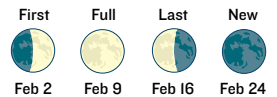
For up-to-the-minute weather, see: [washingtontimes.com/weather](http://washingtontimes.com/weather)

Regional Forecast

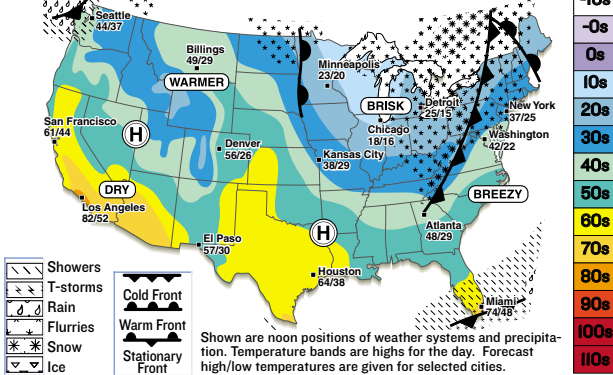
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny. High 42. Wind north-west 10-20 mph. Tonight, mainly clear, cold. Low 22. Wind northwest 10-20 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:16 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 5:27 p.m.  
Moonrise today 9:09 a.m.  
Moonset today 10:03 p.m.



National Weather for Friday, January 30



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	48/29/s	57/36/s
Boston	36/22/pc	26/19/pc
Chicago	18/16/pc	38/29/pc
Dallas	64/35/s	65/46/s
Denver	56/26/s	54/22/pc
Honolulu	81/68/s	80/67/s
Los Angeles	82/52/s	74/48/s
Miami	74/48/sh	65/53/s
New York City	37/25/sf	29/24/pc
Orlando	59/37/r	58/35/s
Seattle	44/37/c	45/33/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	43/32/s	47/34/s
Athens	55/48/sh	52/45/sh
Berlin	37/28/s	36/27/sf
Buenos Aires	84/66/c	81/61/pc
Calgary	47/28/c	29/14/sn
Dublin	48/41/r	46/41/r
Geneva	47/30/s	51/31/c
Moscow	25/10/sf	14/0/c
Rome	50/37/s	48/37/pc
Sydney	86/70/s	84/72/pc
Tokyo	54/47/r	52/40/r

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



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**Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.**

**express**

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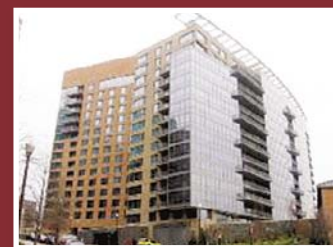
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■ **After a string** of lauded but less visible roles ("Rome," "Journeyman"), actor Kevin McKidd has joined the clan of high-profile Scots — Sean Connery, Ewan McGregor — at the heart of Hollywood. Playing Iraq war veteran Owen Hunt, he's now a figure on ABC's doc drama "Grey's Anatomy" (Thu., 9 p.m.), even snagging the heart of standoffish Cristina.

#### After a lot of movie and theater roles, how do you like "Grey's"?

I'm really enjoying myself. The cast is great, and I'm very interested in Owen Hunt — he's had an interesting past and is very complex.

#### Do you put a lot of research into developing a character like him?

It's my responsibility as an actor to bring an authenticity to the role, and I feel the weight of that very much. Serving in Iraq is such a big part of Owen's character, so I made sure to interview surgeons and read books by doctors who had been there.

#### Viewers must really respond to your character's situation.

I definitely seem to be getting the biggest reactions with this role because it's very relevant for right now. It's not all about Iraq, though: People also come up to me in Trader Joe's and ask, "When are you [and Cristina] going to get it on?"

#### Anything you can tell us?

It's been a rocky road, but Cristina and Owen are so similar in many ways. Cupid has shot an arrow through them, and I think they're really finding it tough to be apart.

#### Despite the seriousness of your character, is it a fun place to work?

It really is, but working on a TV show involves long days in a small space where you might not see sunlight for 15 hours at a time. It's almost like working at an actual



CRAIG SJODIN/ABC PUBLICITY

## Kevin McKidd

GREAT SCOT, 'GREY'S' SURGEON, LAGER LOVER

hospital. Maybe that's what helps it feel so authentic.

#### Is all the equipment on the show real, or is it all an elaborate setup?

We have a medical adviser on set who makes sure we have the very latest machines. In fact, I damaged my calf muscle a few days ago when I was working out. The adviser thought I might have a blood clot, so she picked up a machine and scanned me right then and there on the set. Turns out it's OK.

#### What about the surgeries?

We are really drilled on how to make them believable — it's not someone else's hands that go in there for those shots. Those are the most challenging scenes, because not only do you have to do the dialogue, you need to do this incredibly technical procedure along with it.

#### They do a pretty realistic job of making the medical part very gory.

We have these crazy cadavers with internal organs that are made of latex and filled with strange goo. It's all synthetic but completely stomach-turning.

**"[Scrubs are] the most comfortable things [to] wear. It's like working ... in pajamas."**

#### Your wardrobe must be all scrubs.

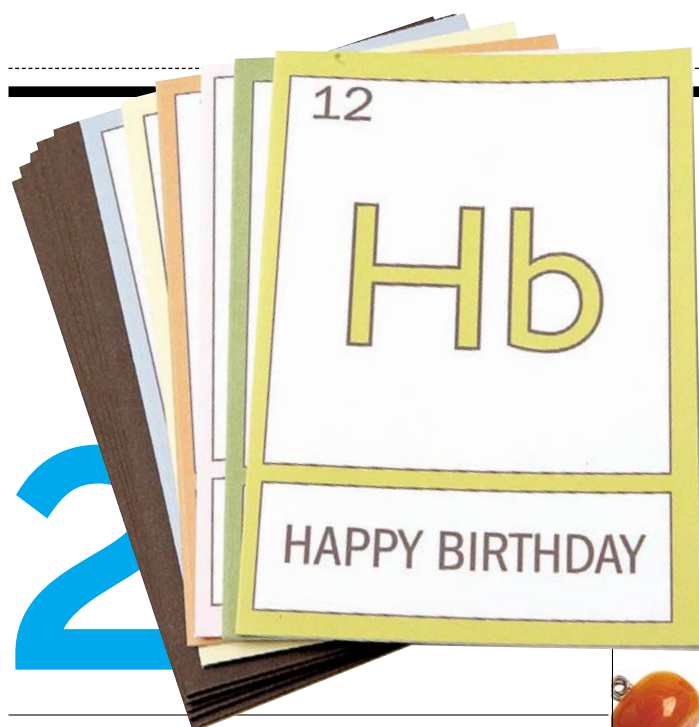
There's definitely a lot of blue going on. Actually, they only give you one set of scrubs to wear the entire season. I think I've been in the same costume for six months now. I have to say, they're the most comfortable things you'll ever wear in your life. It's like working every day in pajamas.

#### You're originally from the Scottish Highlands. How are you finding L.A.?

I moved here from Europe about 18 months ago. I actually really like it here — people are so friendly — but the lager is just no good.

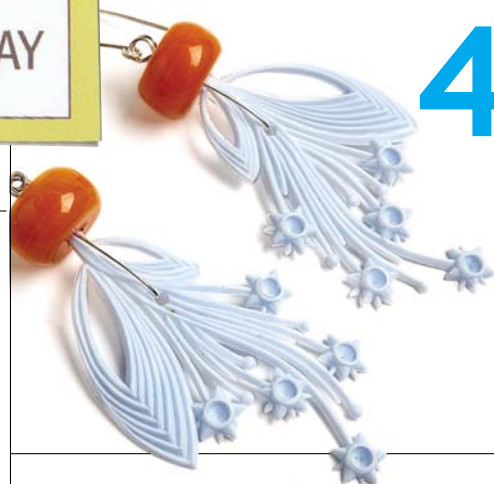
BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)





## The Elements of Smile

**WE ADMIT TO** being embarrassingly forgetful about birthdays, anniversaries and just about every other special occasion. (Last-minute presents grabbed at CVS? Guilty as charged.) But we have a leg up this year with Pink Loves Brown's crisply old-school Periodic Table of Sentiments card set (\$12 for six, [Pinklovesbrown.com](http://Pinklovesbrown.com)), which offers a cheeky, chemistry-nerd take on cards for occasions from birthdays to wedding anniversaries. Whether you remember to send them, well, that part's up to you.



## 4 A Different Dangle

**LIKE NECKLACES BEFORE** them, earrings have grown ginormous for spring. Few designers get this trend better than Cali's Betsy & Iya, which combines vintage materials — plastic flowers, snippets of lace and beads — with bold silver to form statement-making, swiny bijoux. A nice stock (\$25-\$85) just arrived at Betsy Fisher (1224 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-785-1975); for necklaces and additional styles, visit [Betsyandiya.com](http://Betsyandiya.com).

## A Cuff of Kindness

**MACCHIATOS AT** Starbucks have been so scalding lately, it's a wonder the company hasn't been sued à la McDonald's. Still, surviving in a chilling time (and clime) means we need our caffeine drip. Canada's Contexture Design clearly appreciates this, which must be why it bends architectural veneer scraps into coffee cuffs (\$68, [Contexture.ca](http://Contexture.ca)). The eco-chic C's protect paws from hot cups; they can also be worn as tough bracelets when you're drinking iced lattes this summer.



**Grab Bag**

## Right in The Kisser

**THE WINTRY MIX** of weather has made our pout so chapped that regular lipstick often looks cracked and crazy-music-teacher-ish. Which is what makes the newest Kiehl's batch of lightly tinted lip glosses so appealing. The creamy-but-not-sticky balms — in four new neutral shades — deliver a rosy glow to raw lips while adding healing beta-carotene, vitamin E and fruit extracts. Our mouths might be agape with each chilling gust, but at least they'll look good.



## Teddy to Crumble?

**IF A PEEPS BEAR** met a Peeps rabbit in the forest, which would survive? The question may never be answered, since the new chocolate marshmallow creatures (\$1.29 per six-pack, drugstores) were uncaged just for Valentine's Day. That the little puffy guys taste better than their Easter brethren also suggests they won't survive until egg-hunt season. At [Marshmallowpeeps.com](http://Marshmallowpeeps.com), there's a bear layer-cake recipe that could also hasten their demise.

dear  
**manolo**

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

**Enough with the snow and ice already; I am completely sick of winter. Will spring ever arrive? Please help me.** — DENISE

■ Manolo says, from what the Manolo has heard (but not felt, as he has been traveling in South America for the past several months), this has been the particularly nasty winter in the Northern Hemisphere, with the frequent storms of ice and hail and snow and impossibly frigid temperatures, such as the recent record of 5,013 degrees below zero in Minneapolis,



with wind chills into the negative 7,000s.

And so while the Manolo has been toastily sunning himself into golden brownness on the sandy beaches of Juan Ignacio, Uruguay, he has not been insensitive to the desperate cries of his many frigid friends.

Indeed, the Manolo has been thinking of little else but summer shoes, as all around him, on the feet of the elegant Latin women, are the most super-fantastic sandals that would lift the spirits of even the most depressed Minnesota farm wife — uff da!

Look! Here is the Tiara from Charles David (\$175, [Zappos.com](http://Zappos.com)), the exuberant and beautiful flat thong sandal with the turquoise rhinestones that declare you will not be cowed by the weather!



Ask the Manolo a question at [manolo@shoeblogs.com](mailto:manolo@shoeblogs.com). Visit the Manolo at [shoeblogs.com](http://shoeblogs.com).

**\* event horizon**

→ A Chocolate 101 class imparts candy tips. \$105. Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Chocolaterie Wanders, Manassas; 202-244-3700.



# 1 Detox Your Digs

Ironically, getting a posher look might involve shedding stuff, not shopping for it. “Weed out the junk,” says Erin Mara (shown in her own uncluttered digs), designer and co-owner of Capitol Hill’s Homebody (715 Eighth St. SE; 202-544-8445). “You may love it, but if it’s not working for you anymore, it’s time to donate or throw it away.” Translation: Toss the dentist office-ready “artwork” from Target and give that funky oil painting of Old San Juan you picked up on your honeymoon a well-deserved stint on the wall. “A lot of times we accumulate, accumulate — and then the things we were so drawn to get lost in the shuffle,” says D.C. interior designer Lisa Cannon. “Identify the key pieces you really love, and find a way to highlight them. Do something special to take them up a notch.” Conquer the rest of your clutter with painless organization tactics, such as lassoing your toppling magazine collection into cheap, attractive files (try Thomas Paul’s line, Seejanetwork.com) or pretty baskets, such as the handcrafted, worldly ones at the National Geographic store (1145 17th St. NW; 202-857-7591).



ABBY GREENAWALT

“IF IT’S NOT WORKING FOR YOU, IT’S TIME TO THROW IT AWAY.”

—ERIN MARA, DESIGNER AND CO-OWNER OF HOMEBODY

# Go Luxe for Few Bucks

**Those stacks of** Pottery Barn and West Elm catalogs beckon from your mail slot, suggesting floorboard-to-chandelier redos of your pad. But the last time we checked, the Dow was as down and out as your stained, sagging sofa. But before you nail up a cross-stitched sampler that reads “Home, Dated Home,” you might want to listen to a few tips from local and national buck-stretching design pros. Because a renovation and a recession needn’t be mutually exclusive. KATIE KNOROVSKY

## 2 Go Natural

You know how you tend to judge a restaurant by the freshness — or, uh, plasticity — of the flowers on the table? That’s the same way your friends feel when they go to smell your “orchids” on the table and get a big whiff of synthetic. Sure, the fake stuff is cheaper — and dustier. But fresh-cut flowers from Costco (\$8.99 per variety bunch; \$15.99 for 18 rose stems) or, better yet, your local flower shop radiate a level of class that can’t be forged. “A well-placed plant can provide color, life and sculptural interest,” says Homebody’s Erin Mara. Or, amble through Rock Creek Park, picking up sticks of varying sizes as you go. Get creative with your plunder; try adding metallic spray paint and displaying the organic-looking finds in a simple vase, like Papaver Vert’s felt model (shown, \$156, [Velocityartanddesign.com](http://Velocityartanddesign.com)).



## 3 Lighten Up

Can’t afford that boutique-hotelish drum-shaded chandelier you’ve been dreaming of? Glamming up your lighting can be as easy as installing dimmer switches, which you can pick up for a few bucks at your local hardware store. The result can “totally transform a room,” D.C. interior designer Matthew Swingly says. “I dim everything except the refrigerator light.” Another bright idea: Swap tired lamp shades with new ones from Ikea or Restoration Hardware, which offers posh-yet-not-overpriced ones in colored silk or neutral linen.





## Hit the Surface

Boston interior designer Taniya Nayak is a master of illusions, as she shows on budget-minded HGTV shows such as “Designed to Sell” and coming-soon webisodes on projects under \$100. Her favorite trick for tricking out a place on the cheap is faking a vaulted ceiling, which “creates the illusion your ceiling is taller.” If your ceiling is square, create the look by painting a square within a square, with each outer square painted one shade darker, using masking tape to ensure clean lines. Other Park Avenue-look, trailer-park-priced Nayak ideas: Deck a blank spot with a wall application such as Wallter’s paintable, 3-D teardrops (\$42, 2modern.com).



## Get Fuzzy

When it's chilly outside, cozy up your pad with textured accents and plush fabrics. Think of it as the decor equivalent of tying on a new scarf with last year's dress: an inexpensive update. “A throw that feels good can add elegance and warmth,” says D.C. designer Matthew Swingly. To local interior designer Darryl Carter, opulence can be as simple as “overscaled, sumptuous velvet feather-filled pillows” on a sofa. D.C. designer Lisa Cannon loves West Elm's sheepskin floor cushion (shown, \$89, Westelm.com) for its cushy touch. Keep costs even lower by putting fresh covers on old pillows.

# 5

## Face-Lift Furniture

If you are looking to buy a dresser or bed, your dollar will stretch infinitely further if you shop for used pieces — and they'll likely last longer, too. “You can find some really extraordinary pieces that may need a relatively inexpensive face-lift — from a chair being reupholstered to a cabinet that may be revived with paint,” designer Darryl Carter says. Give a frumpy old chandelier or dusty stool a mod new outlook with orange or white lacquer. Score duds with diamond potential on Craigslist, where prices are almost always negotiable, or among the estate-sale hodgepodge at Ruff & Ready Furnishings (1908 14th St. NW; 202-667-7833).

“YOU CAN FIND SOME REALLY EXTRA-ORDINARY PIECES THAT MAY NEED A RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE FACE-LIFT.”

—DARRYL CARTER  
INTERIOR DESIGNER



ABBY GREENAWALT

## Corral Collections

You don't want to live in a stuffy museum, but you'd be wise to think like a curator and coalesce your curios. Fab designers understand the bling quotient of a carefully conceived collection. And whether your baubles are divine (Avedon photos) or just so-so (old rolling pins), the secret lies in presentation. “Look at things you have — can you group anything together to make it a collection?” says Roslyn Ashford, a Silver Spring interior designer of Ra ReDoes Rooms. “If you put everything on one wall, it looks more intentional. That cuts visual clutter.” Ashford did this in a Bethesda client's den, shown, positioning similar framed posters on a red wall. Don't collect anything? Scour flea markets or thrift shops and see what appeals to you, whether it's apothecary bottles or old-timey toys. (For inspiration, see Lostfoundart.

com.) Designer Matt Swingly suggests going for “fewer, finer, funky things” — whether that means hand-painted Mexican pottery or a stack of well-worn books.

“IF YOU PUT EVERYTHING ON ONE WALL, IT LOOKS MORE INTENTIONAL. THAT CUTS VISUAL CLUTTER.”

—ROSLYN ASHFORD, INTERIOR DESIGNER



## Rock With a Roller

“The best way to freshen a room is with paint. It's a huge bang for your buck — way less than a dinner out in the city,” says designer Matthew Swingly. Opt for a lush, saturated hue such as plum. Or accentuate what you already have with a splashy topcoat such as Ralph Lauren's iridescent candlelight paint (\$47 per gallon, Home Depot), which adds “subtle movement” and richens dark colors while making light colors airier, says Sarah Fishburne, Home Depot's manager of trends and design. Commitment-phobes might paint a room's trim gray, black or chocolate, or do the ceiling in an unexpected tint (Fishburne's pick: icy blue). “A ceiling embellishment through the use of architectural molding can give a space interest,” says D.C. designer Darryl Carter. For ideas, browse the antique house parts at the Brass Knob (2311 18th St. NW; 202-332-3370).



# Darkness Calls

The fashion set's ongoing love affair with the smoky eye seems to have sparked a new trend: a pack of noir-as-night beauty products that add a touch of dark decadence to a dressing table. Whether it's a sparkly nighttime nail color from Dior or the latest onyx-bottled scents, it's clear that in beauty, black is the new black. **CORY OHLENDORF**



## 1. EVENING STANDARD

Soft as a black kitten, Giorgio Armani's powder puff imparts a pretty shimmer (\$55, Saks Fifth Avenue, 5555 Wisconsin Ave.; 301-657-9000).

## 2. BLACK MAGIC

Givenchy's Le Soin Noir cream gets its dark hue and age-defying infusions from rare black algae (\$360, Sephora, 3065 M St. NW; 202-338-5644).

## 3. DEEP NOTES

Marc Jacobs' Daisy Intense perfume has an deep violet scent that smells as good as it looks (\$70, Bloomingdale's, 5300 Western Ave.; 240-744-3700).

## 4. DARK NIGHTS

The midnight hue of Christian Dior's party-perfect Black Sequins nail lacquer is flecked with sparkles of light-catching silver (\$19, Sephora).

## 5. EBONY EFFECT

Despite its sleek bottle, Bulgari's Jasmin Noir delivers a warm, woody scent (\$68, Bulgari, 5481 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase; 301-986-8610).



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# B.I.O.

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## Melissa Doughty, John Pastalow

**Melissa, 27, is a retirement planner, and John, 31, is a financial adviser. They live in Baltimore.**

- **The Main Event:** On Aug. 15, the pair will marry at Fort Belvoir in a Catholic ceremony. John says, "It's mainly out of respect for my father, who had very strong faith. It's a way to feel closer to him, even if he is not there in person."
- **How They Met:** While working at Ameriprise Financial. John was tapped to be Melissa's "coach." He says he always kept "an eye on her progress,

and her butt."

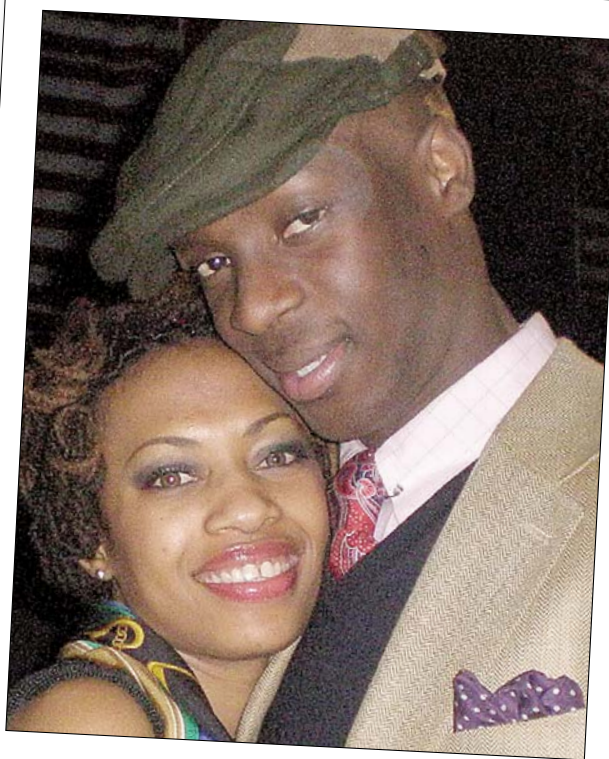
■ **First Date:** A Ravens scrimmage game and a hookah bar.

■ **Stupidest Fight:** When Melissa cleans the house, she puts stuff "where it belongs," John says. He recalls getting ready for work one morning and putting his shoes on. "My shoehorn was nowhere to be seen. I was getting frustrated, and the dog was getting scared. I texted and called Mel. Finally, I happened to see the shoehorn in another pair of my shoes. When Melissa answered [the phone], she said, 'It's where it belongs.' Arghh!"

■ **Biggest Fear:** "I'm truly afraid a family member will have a little too much to drink and get out of control," Melissa says. Adds John, "And I'm afraid I'll be with that family member."

■ **When She Knew:** Their second date. "We had such a chemistry."

"I was getting frustrated, and the dog was getting scared."

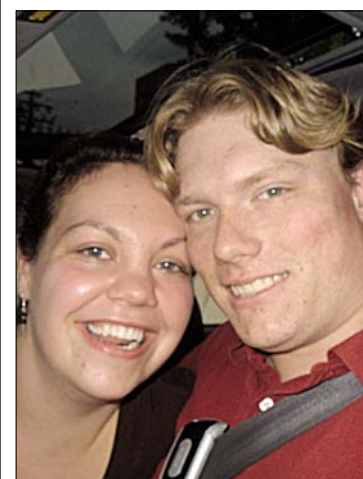


## Check Mate

**P. WELDON MENDES, 26,** made a strong impression on **JEANETTE PHILLIPS, 29.** He was handsome and funny, but it was his confidence that struck her heart. Says Jeanette, "We went to Busboys and Poets. We laughed so much, it was crazy. I remember the bill came, and it was roughly \$60. He pulled all this cash from his pocket, which was about \$45, looked at me, and said, 'Put in the rest.' He said it not in a rude or annoying way, but almost like we were already in a relationship."

Weldon's sense of certainty continued to impress Jeanette. "A few months after we met," she says, "Weldon bought a ring, and he showed it to me." A few months later while on a trip to Dominica to meet his family, Weldon popped the question.

They'll marry July 11 at Fort Shirley in Weldon's hometown, Cabrits, Dominica. The bride will wear an eggshell-colored gown with a 7-foot-long train. Her brother, who owns Kidd's Island Bakery in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., will make a dark, fruit-filled rum cake for them. They'll honeymoon in Greece. KATE GIBBS (EXPRESS)



## Rachel Clemmer, Trevor Mackessy-Lloyd

**Rachel, 24, is a registered nurse at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Trevor, 25, is a civil engineer. The bride is relocating from Syracuse, N.Y., to Manassas, where the couple will live together.**

- **The Main Event:** A ceremony Feb. 21 at a Bowie-area church, with 250 friends and family members in attendance.
- **How They Met:** Freshman year at Catholic University during an ice-breaker.
- **First Impressions:** "During high school," says Rachel, "I always had crushes on my guy friends. When I first met Trevor, I thought, 'Hmm, maybe now I am mature enough to be friends with a guy.' See where that got me?"
- **First Date:** A walk to the Jefferson Memorial.

"We were talking about nothing when Trevor pulled out a ring tied to a length of fishing line."

## Kiel Andersen, Lauren Robinson

**Lauren, 25, is a fitness consultant for Fitness First in Arlington. Kiel is an online anti-piracy analyst for the Recording Industry of America. They live in Arlington.**

- **The Main Event:** Lauren and Kiel were married Jan. 3 at the Condado Plaza Hotel and Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico. All the music, including the couple's recession (Bob Marley's "One Love"), was played on steel drums.

### ■ How They Met:

"While studying in Dublin," Lauren says, "I had a roommate through the University of Arizona. Through Facebook, one of her friends saw my pictures and ended up 'friending' me. Her friend was Kiel, and he called me on the phone, professing, 'You don't know me, but I'm infatuated with you.' He had me hooked!"

■ **First Date:** Their first in-person



meeting was at the Houston Airport. Kiel's flight had been delayed for six hour, so the couple missed their dinner reservation.

- **How He Proposed:** On Lauren's 24th birthday, Kiel took her to the Hay-Adams Hotel for after-work drinks. They were ushered to the roof to see the view of the monuments and the White House. Lauren remembers, "Kiel started rambling about how D.C. is 'our place,' and all this mushy stuff, but I wasn't listening, because I was too busy taking pictures!" When he pulled out the ring and got down on one knee, she says, "I stopped with the camera."

■ **Her Dress:** A strapless Nicole Miller gown for the ceremony and a short chiffon number for the reception.

■ **Song:** "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz.



**Getting Married?** If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to [weddings@readexpress.com](mailto:weddings@readexpress.com). Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We hope to back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.

- **How He Proposed:** Rainy weather ruined the couple's plan to take a paddleboat ride in the Tidal Basin. On their way back to the car, Rachel remembers, they stopped at the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. "We were talking about nothing when Trevor pulled out a ring tied to a length of fishing line — just in case I dropped it in the water."
- **Family Traditions:** He jokes, "The bride has to wear a bib during dinner because she is very messy." "I will not wearing a bib!" she says.





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**HANDY HOMEOWNERS:** Doreen Mannion, left, and Connie Kiernan help others with home repairs through the Do It Herself Meetup Group of Prince George's County.

## PROJECT PRIMER

### Give DIY a Try

Want to start your own home improvement group, or just ready to work on some repairs? We had a few pros nail down some tips.

→ **DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW:** Never used a hammer, but planning a complete makeover of the kitchen? Think again. Even experienced DIYers can get into hot water by taking up projects that are beyond their skill level, leading to botched work, or pricey additional fix-ups by contractors. "Know what you're getting into," says HGTV and DIY Network home improvement pro Carter Oosterhouse. "If you're starting off for the first time, try to do some of the easier things around the house." Simple projects, like moving furniture and using new window treatments, are great starters, Oosterhouse says.

→ **STOCK YOUR TOOL BOX:** Oosterhouse recommends wannabe Bob Vilas invest in the basics — hammer, nails, screw gun, tape measure, pliers — and that they remember the adage: You get what you pay for. High-quality tools are often more expensive, but they're worth it, Oosterhouse says. TV shows, books, Web sites and home repair stores can be great resources. And talking with other DIY enthusiasts can help spread knowledge and inspiration, says Delores Wilson, a member of the Do It Herself Meetup Group of Prince George's County. "It's funny how creative ideas start flowing if you use a group as a sounding board," Wilson says.

→ **BE ORGANIZED:** If you're trying to form your own DIY club, lay out some ground rules at the start to keep the group's focus on the tasks at hand (rather than simply socializing), recommends VaLerie Hill, the founder of the Do It Herself Meetup Group of Prince George's County. Hill set up her group through [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com) (which charges between \$12 and \$19 per month per group) to help the group stay in touch and keep track of upcoming events online.

→ **KEEP IT LOCAL:** Limit the membership of your DIY group to a particular region or neighborhood, Hill says. It's often not worth it to make members travel from out of town, if it requires them to set aside extra time (and gas money) to be at every meeting.

# They Know the Drill

## An all-female club saves money and time on repairs by sharing the work

When Delores Wilson decided it was time to remove the late 1980s-era striped wallpaper from her powder room and coat the walls in a textured beige-green paint combo, the project was far more daunting and extensive than any other she had undertaken. But she wasn't worried. That's because she had a dedicated team of three other women to help her out, even as the project hit its low point, when all four were crammed inside the tiny bathroom, scraping at stubborn scraps of paper with putty knives.

"I would never have done it on my own," says Wilson, 46, of Bowie, a safety manager for the government

and a member of the Do It Herself Meetup Group of Prince George's County. "It took me years to even get up the nerve [to start the project]. But once I was talking to the ladies, it was, like, power in numbers."

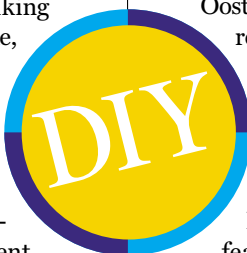
The Do It Herself group, which has about 13 members, gets together a few times per month to work on members' home improvement projects — everything from replacing a vinyl kitchen floor to installing an automatic light switch in a garage. And it seems they are on to something; an Associated Press story published in November noted that DIY clubs have recently begun to spring up across the country as homeowners try to save money amid the recession.

Even online groups and message boards are buzzing as fix-up enthu-

siasts seek and dispense advice.

"If you go online to any Web site, lots of people are more than willing to help out others," says Carter Oosterhouse, a Denver-based renovation pro who helps homeowners with projects on HGTV's "Red Hot & Green" and "Carter Can," and the DIY Network's "The Inside Job." He'll next be featured on the premiere episode of "HGTV Showdown" (Feb. 8 at 9 p.m.). "It's amazing the amount of feedback you can get on just about anything," Oosterhouse says.

Tips, tricks and techniques are, of course, a hot topic at meetings of the Do It Herself group of Prince George's County, where the members' experience with fix-ups ranges from highly skilled to simply ambitious. Every few weeks, the group



“What’s wonderful about the group is everybody’s learning.”

CONNIE KIERNAN,  
DO IT HERSELF GROUP MEMBER

meets to select new projects; each member can propose a project at her own home, as long as she's already put in some time working on another's fix-up.

"If it's your house and your project, you're responsible for looking up the instructions on how to do it," says Do It Herself group founder VaLerie Hill, a 40-something Bowie resident who is a Realtor with Century 21 Home Center. "It's your responsibility to have an idea

CONTINUED ON E4



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## CondoLiving



**POWER TOOL PROFICIENT:** Connie Kiernan uses a drill press at her Bowie home.

### Fix-It Females

CONTINUED FROM E2

of the project, to get all the materials and to have all the instructions, but you can also ask other group members for help."

The group has divvied up major and minor tasks since December

**Online message boards are buzzing as fix-up enthusiasts seek and give out advice.**

2007, when Hill decided to create a space for like-minded local women on Meetup.com.

"I started [the group] because I was frustrated with contractors who didn't show up," Hill says. "A contractor who was scheduled to come at 9 a.m. didn't show up until 3:30 p.m. ... and several phone calls from me. He was only putting up some cabinets in my laundry room, and once I saw how easy it was, I thought to myself, 'I could have done that, if I just knew how.'"

Now, Hill knows about everything from power tools to painting to the physics involved in torque.

Connie Kiernan, a self-taught

home improvement enthusiast, says she joined the group last year to help teach others about DIY work — and to pick up tips from others. "What's wonderful about the group is that everybody's learning," says Kiernan, 57, a Bowie resident and a senior project manager at the U.S. Mint. "I've enjoyed being able to share with other ladies in the group, with folks that had a problem but didn't know how to solve it. Being able to mentor and give people that self-sufficiency, I've really enjoyed."

By working together often, many of the group members have become close friends. Their meet-ups are all business — they're serious about their projects — but they also hold occasional planning and social gatherings at restaurants.

More bonuses: The Do It Herselves say they no longer need to rely on family or friends for help with home repairs, and have saved money as the economy has sunk into a recession. Group members pay \$15 per year to cover the costs of being organized through Meetup.com, but most think they make back that money by eliminating the need to hire contractors.

Do It Herselves also save money by learning new skills at free Home Depot clinics. Nearly every week-end, most Home Depot stores offer one-time classes on topics such as





**HANDS-ON:** Do It Herselfers remove wallpaper from a group member's bathroom.

ceramic tiling, interior lighting and painting (for details on what's being offered at your neighborhood Home Depot, visit [Homedepot.com](http://Homedepot.com)).

Crysta Norris, the operations assistant store manager at the Home Depot in Bowie, says she's noticed a recent surge in popularity of DIY home repairs as the economy has soured.

"We're getting a lot more foot traffic from the everyday do-it-yourselfers," Norris says. Though she isn't familiar with any local fix-up clubs, Norris says, she thinks it's "the best idea since sliced bread."

"Doing something with a group is sometimes easier and more satisfying because you're working with a team. But there are some projects that I feel everybody can do [without help from others]. A bucket of paint can make of a world of difference in a new room. If you just paint your bathroom, change your light fixture and put up some new shower curtains, it's like you've added \$500 of value to your property. And that's a one-person job."

As someone who has worked on home projects for nearly 20 years (he started by helping to build homes as a teen), Oosterhouse, 32, isn't surprised at the DIY phenomenon, whether it's among individuals or in groups. Sharing work saves time, he says, noting that even on his TV shows, extra crew members help out behind the scenes to speed up renovations. "If I have a team around me, it definitely makes sense for other people, too," Oosterhouse says.

And even after an HGTV-worthy renovation, the desire to keep

**“We’re about getting projects done; we’re not trying to meet guys.”**

**VALERIE HILL,**  
DO IT HERSELF GROUP FOUNDER

improving the home often sticks, he says. What makes such rehabs so addictive?

"I think it's the sense of empowerment," Oosterhouse says. "When you see a relatively big change in a short period of time, it makes you feel good about yourself; it makes you feel like you've accomplished something."

The Do It Herselfers say they feel that sense of achievement, too. Some members say it's especially nice because the group is limited to women. Hill instituted the females-only rule to make sure everyone felt comfortable and safe in the group, but also to keep the focus on the projects. "It's not a pick-up type thing. We're about getting projects done; we're not trying to meet guys," she says.

Club member Barbara Adam, 42, of Greenbelt says she used to rely on help from male friends or relatives whenever she needed repairs done. Now, she says, those days are over.

"It gives you the confidence to tackle projects that you really don't need to pay someone to do," says Adam, an auto insurance claims representative. "You just need the know-how and the support."

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## CondoLiving



**LICENSE LESSONS:** Weichert Realty courses teach students real estate principles.

# Studies in Ambition

## Real estate classes teach novices how to save on sales — or launch a career

The bears are loose on Wall Street, and interest rates are down — which can only mean that it's time to buy. Could an already sweet real estate deal become a steal if you earn your real estate license to save on commissions and closing costs?

"Absolutely," says Bill Spadea, vice president of executive recruiting for Weichert Realty. "You can save thousands." But Spadea, who hires and trains agents and instructors while running the firm's East Coast real estate schools, says that getting the license is just the beginning of the process to become an agent.

While anybody can take a course, pass a test and become licensed, if you want to sell or list homes on an ongoing basis, it's best to be affiliated with a broker, Spadea says. Besides the advertising advantages, there are also legal concerns. Even people who sell their own homes are cautioned to seek counsel from real estate attorneys.

First things first, though. To earn your real estate license, you must complete 60 hours of classes in subjects such as ethics and real estate law. Then, you'll need to pass a test on those topics. Luckily, the requirements and tests for the District, Maryland and Virginia are similar, and based on universal principles and practices of real estate, such as contracts, financing and environmental issues. There are also sections on local rules and regulations.

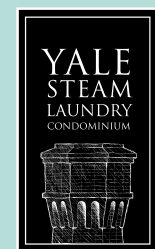
DIY

Classes are available online and in person through real estate companies. In Maryland, they are also offered through colleges.

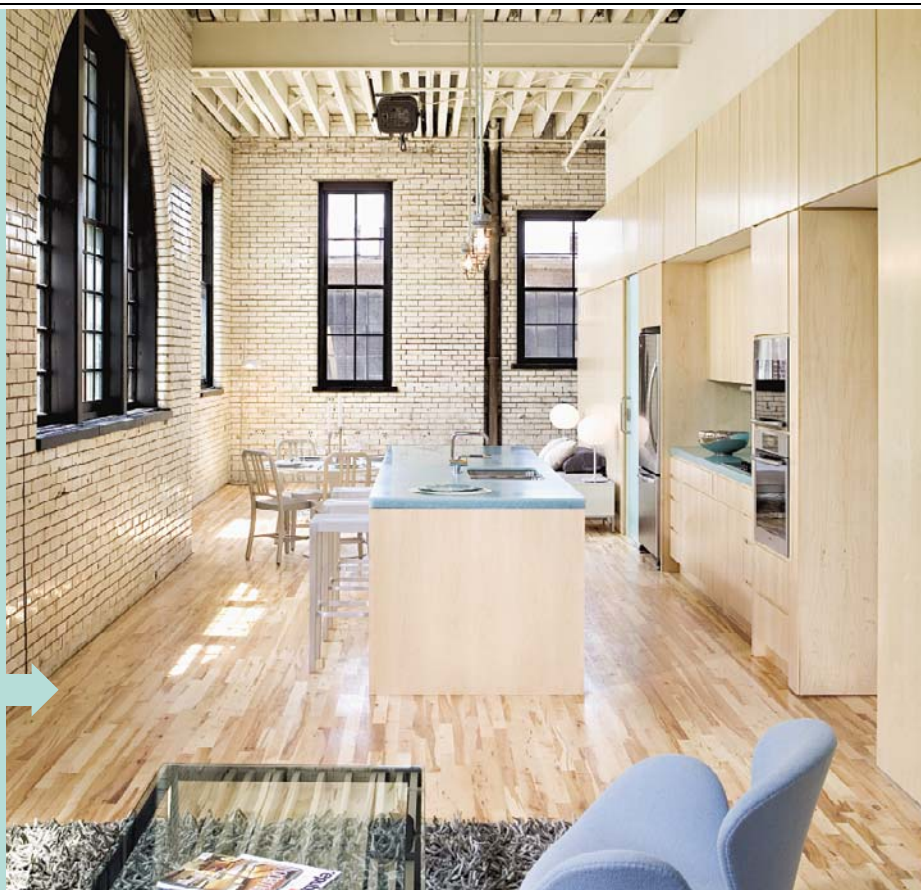
Prices vary depending on schools; the test costs about \$100.

"It's a lot of hoops to jump through," says Rob Steward, a Weichert Realtor who works in Germantown. Steward and his wife both started second careers in real estate as a result of trying to sell their house. Unfortunately, the market began to dip as the Stewards were hunting, so they ended up staying put. But the process put a hook in them. They took the course and the test together through Weichert and have been licensed for three years.

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# CondoLiving



**PATH TO SUCCESS:** A career change led Daryl Judy to become a Sotheby's agent.

After he earned his license, it took Steward seven months to sell his first house. Being in the right place at the right time helped him make the sale. "These people came into the office on Christmas Eve," he says. "In an office of 80 agents, I was the only one here."

Despite Steward's success, some real estate experts caution that acting as your own agent can be disastrous. People who get a license to save on their own transactions "usually create a mess, since they do not know what they are doing," says Adrienne Szabo, a Woodley Park-based agent for Long & Foster. "Being a Realtor is a very complicated job," she says. "There are a hundred ways you can mess up before you get to closing."

Szabo, a native of Hungary who has lived in the U.S. since 2005, entered the field when she was searching for new digs in the District. She spent 10 months looking for an apartment before she finally found one, but she couldn't stay away from the hunt. "After I was situated, I didn't stop," she says. "I kept going to open houses, kept looking at the paper. People usually get fed up. I was the opposite."

Szabo's agent suggested she consider selling houses as a career. Her brother was a broker in North Carolina and she'd dabbled in the market in Europe, so it was a fairly simple transition. Lesson for aspiring brokers: If you want to get licensed, it helps to have a background in sales.

A love of houses, renovation and

design also pulls a steady stream of recruits into the field.

Daryl Judy, a Georgetown-based agent for TTR Sotheby's International Realty, taught school and worked for a biotech firm before he decided to change careers two and a half years ago. After he became licensed, Judy tapped some connections to find a job at Sotheby's

**“Being a Realtor is a very complicated job. There are a hundred ways you can mess up before you get to closing.”**

ADRIENNE SZABO, LONG & FOSTER

without having any experience selling houses. "It's a very rare thing to end up here," he says. "The first year was very hairy."

Judy doesn't see his office bringing in a new agent who's just interested in working his or her own deals. But some agencies, including Weichert, do use part-timers as referral agents who can pass along contracts to the firm's full-time agents; if their deals close, the part-timers earn a percentage of the sale.

So, investing some spare time to become a real estate agent could save you enough on your own transaction to add the hot tub, the Sub-Zero or the perfect couch to your new place. Or, it could launch you into a whole new career. SCOTT SOWERS

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